

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

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No. 1862.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1852.

REVIEWS.

Annette; a Tale. By William Frederick Deacon. With a Memoir of the Author by the Hon. Sir T. N. Talfourd, D.C.L. 3 vols. Colburn and Co.

TRUTH, if not always stranger than fiction, has a deeper and more enduring interest. We find it so now after reading these three volumes, the few prefatory pages of biography dwelling with us far more than the work to which they stand as an introduction. The story is one of stirring scenes in the war of La Vendée; and the fortunes of the royalists, and especially of the brave De Chatillon and his fair Annette, we have read with sympathising emotion. Ordinary novel readers will perhaps skip or lightly pass the biographical sketch of the author, as they do other prefaces and introductions, but more thoughtful minds will find fit matter of suggestive thought in Sir Thomas Talfourd's brief sketch of the life of his old friend and schoolfellow, William Frederick Deacon. It is a picture of every-day life in the world of literature, to literary men full of interest and instruction. The biography presents few eventful scenes, nor was the character or career of its subject one in any way extraordinary. But on this account the narrative comes all the more home to personal sympathy, and the lessons conveyed by it are the more useful for precept or example.

About seven years ago there appeared in the 'Sun' newspaper an obituary notice of Mr. Deacon, in which he was mentioned as having been a distinguished writer in some of our best periodicals, well known to the first literary characters of the age, and as much respected for his personal worth as he was admired for his ability and tact as a writer. For twenty years he had been the contributor of its literary criticisms to that newspaper, and was an occasional correspondent of other journals, one of which, after quoting the notice from the 'Sun,' added that the lamented subject of it was not only "a tasteful critic, an accomplished scholar, and an elegant writer, but he was also a high-minded gentleman, a kind husband, and an anxious parent." Thus passed away one of the many men by whom the work of periodical literature in our day is carried on. The sequel of the narrative is also not an infrequent one. The toils of literary labour sufficed for an honourable and comfortable livelihood, but had brought no adequate provision for a widow and family:—

"What he could do he did—he provided for their comfort while able to work—and conscientiously abstained from touching a little fund which would have contributed to his ease. A legacy of a few hundred pounds in the funds, which fell to Mr. Deacon some years before his death, and which he might have applied in obtaining repose and change of scene, he scrupulously maintained entire; and very slender as it was as a provision, the sense that he was about to leave it unbroken, with the hope that the work now submitted to the world would increase it, consoled him in his last illness."

"Amidst the labours of periodical literature by which he supported his family, he slowly and carefully composed this work, in the hope of making a considerable addition to the little fund which he struggled to provide for them; and died when it was scarcely completed."

The questions recently discussed in this journal, in connexion with the autobiography

of William Jerdan, receive ample illustration from the story of William Deacon. At first sight, the warnings against the pursuit of literature as a profession seem to be too sadly confirmed, and another instance seems to be added to the melancholy catalogue of unsuccessful authors. But his freedom from debt through life is an honourable feature not found in most of the cases paraded by Mr. Jerdan, and a closer examination of his case will lead us to the same conclusion as Sir Thomas Talfourd, when he says—"I do not think that my lively schoolfellow made a bad choice when he devoted himself to the press, or that his efforts were ill-requited by fortune." Delicate health and an early death prevented him from fully providing for the future; but this would have been the same in whatever professional pursuit he had been engaged. A brief outline of his career will enable the reader to form his own judgment.

His father was a respectable merchant, and he, the oldest of six children, was placed in 1810, at the age of eleven years, at Reading school, then at the height of its prosperity, under the well-known Dr. Valpy. Of the system of instruction introduced by that excellent scholar and successful teacher, and especially of his peculiar plan of vicarious tasks and literary 'indulgences,' Sir Thomas Talfourd gives a lively account, which will be read with interest by many of the surviving pupils of the school, over which Dr. Valpy presided for half a century.

When about sixteen years of age he was entered at St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, his father intending him for the church. Here we are told that he improved in classical scholarship, for which he had imbibed an earnest love and refined taste under Dr. Valpy,—that he acquired an extensive knowledge of general literature, and that his conversational powers endeared him to the junior members of the University, and induced them to regard him as a young man of rare promise. But in those studies which at that time, and too much even now, monopolize the honours of Cambridge, he was not equally versant. Quitting College, and the prospect of the sacred profession, he came to London, greatly to the grief and disappointment of his father, with the resolution of pushing his way as a literary man. One advantage he had, far beyond the majority of those who begin life in London with such views, in the allowance of 100*l.* a year from his grandmother, which he enjoyed for ten years, till her death in 1829:—

"He brought to London a poem composed at Cambridge, entitled 'Hacho, or the Spell of St. Wilton,' which, with minor effusions of young enthusiasm, he offered to various eminent publishers in succession, with the customary failure. He found, at last, a very honest and kind publisher in Mr. William Hone, who after having been raised for a time into dangerous celebrity by his forensic contests with Lord Ellenborough, had subsided into his proper character—that of a modest bookworm—and now, established as a bookseller in a small shop on Ludgate-hill, avoided the political associations which had perilled and advanced him, and dealt chiefly in the old English books which he loved to peruse. Although the parodies, for the publication of which he was exalted into the position of a martyr, were irreverent and offensive, he intended no blasphemy in publishing them; and the boldness of his triumphant defence was not inspired by any natural audacity, but by the desperation to which he was impelled more by the urgent wants of a starving family, than by fear of personal suffering. He afterwards led a laborious

and blameless life, producing those pleasant miscellanies to which Charles Lamb contributed, and which Southey honoured with his praise."

Strange to say, 'Hacho,' though "printed on coarse paper, bound in unsightly boards, and heralded by no friendly criticism," not only paid its expenses, but yielded an available surplus. It owed its success chiefly to the taste for metrical romance which Sir Walter Scott's popular poems had then produced. Of these it was an avowed imitation, and resembles them in its subject and its style. The following year witnessed a bolder speculation—the production of a daily journal, after the idea of the old 'Spectators' and 'Tatlers' of English literature, entitled 'The Déjeûné; or, Companion for the Breakfast Table,' issued every morning, at 8 o'clock, price twopence. The first number appeared on the 21st October, 1820, a volume being completed on the 15th December following, when the issue dropped to three times a week, and soon after ceased:—

"The wonder is how the little paper lasted so long, supplied almost entirely by the invention of a youth of twenty-one, who brought no experience of men or manners to aid it, but which, like the sculptures in Christebelle, was 'all made out of the carver's brain.' Lively talent and quick sensibility gleam through its pages, and would render the long-forgotten volume in which they are collected very agreeable to any traveller who might find it on a rainy day."

The present position of the daily press renders any single-handed attempt at a paper like those of the old essayists chimerical; but we have often thought a club of a few of our best writers, whose efforts are scattered through countless periodicals, might even now successfully concentrate their contributions in a daily journal, which would command notice in spite of the excitement of "politics" and the hurry of "progress," and be worthy of permanent place in English classic literature.

Discouraged by the failure of this ambitious effort, and also by that of another scheme in which he took part, an opposition 'London Magazine,' started by Messrs. Gold and Northouse as a rival to the famous monthly of the same name commenced by Mr. Baldwin, the young author left London for a time, and sought retirement in South Wales. He took a cottage in the beautiful village of Llangadoc, fished in the pools, and rambled over the mountains, read 'Horace' and 'Sophocles,' and meditated much on his future prospects. From this retreat he be-thought himself of writing to Sir Walter Scott, personally unknown by him, but of whose poetry he had an ardent admiration. To him he told his position, begged his opinion of various sketches and essays accompanying the letter, and asked an introduction to 'Blackwood's Magazine.' In reply to this, and to a subsequent communication, Sir Walter Scott wrote two letters, full of generous kindness and judicious counsel, the first of which we give entire:—

"MR. SCOTT TO MR. DEACON.

"Sir,—I received your packet only two days since, and by this may apologize for any delay in reply, as it happened to be addressed to my house in Edinburgh. The favourable idea I am inclined to form of your talents, from the specimen you have sent me, induces me to regret much that I see no chance of my being useful to you in the way you point at. I have no connexion with Mr. Blackwood's Magazine in the way of recommendation or otherwise, nor do I know by whom it is conducted, unless it be by Mr. Blackwood himself.

I know him, however, sufficiently to send him your productions, but I dare hardly augur any very favourable result. London, the great mart of literature, as of everything else, is the only place where it is possible for a man to support himself by periodical writings. In our country an editor can get so much gratuitous and voluntary assistance, that he hardly cares to be at the expense of maintaining a regular corps of labourers. I shall be happy if Mr. Blackwood makes a distinction in your favour, were it but to give you some time to look round you, and to choose some more steady mode of life than the chance of this precarious mode of employment, which must necessarily make your comforts, if not your existence, dependent on the caprice of the public and tyranny of booksellers and editors.

"An expression of your letter leads me to think you have in your option some commercial situation, which you reject in consequence of your love for the Muses. If this be so, let me conjure you to pause and to recollect that independence, the only situation in which man's faculties have full scope, and his mind full enjoyment, can only be attained by considerable sacrifices. The commencement of every profession is necessarily dull and disagreeable to youths of lively genius; but every profession has its points of interest when the mind comes to view it divested of its technical details. I was as much disgusted with the introductory studies of the law as you can be with those of commerce, and it cost me many a bitter hour before I could bend my mind to them. But I made a virtue of necessity, and was in due time rewarded by finding that I could very well unite my love of letters with my professional duty, and that, set at ease on the score of providing for my family, I had more respectability in the eyes of the public, more freedom of intellect and sunshine of mind, than I could have had with all the uncertainty, dependence, and precarious provision which are the lot of men of literature who have neither profession nor private fortune.

"What you mention frankly of your irregularities at college implies, I sincerely hope, the intention of repressing all tendency to such eccentricities in future. Take my advice, and carry your self-control a little further. Reconcile yourself with your father, and subdue your inclinations to his. Your road to literary distinction will be as easy from the counting-house as from a Welsh valley, for the world does not ask *where* but *what* a man writes. You will acquire a steady income, and in all probability an honourable independence, and when your head is grey, you may lay it on a pillow made soft by your own industry, and by the recollection that you have discharged the duty of a son, by the sacrifice of a predominant taste to the will of your parent. If I thought my own interference could be likely to be of use, I have so much regard for your situation as a young gentleman of talents who seems too much disposed to give way to a generous but irregular love of literature, and so much for that of your father, whose feelings I can judge of by making his case my own, that if you choose to give me a direction and your permission, I would take the liberty to write to your father and try to make up matters betwixt you, an intrusion which my years and situation might perhaps induce him to excuse.

"Perhaps, Sir, I may have exceeded the limits of the sphere to which you meant me to limit my opinion in offering it upon these points; but you must hold the intent, which is most sincerely kind, as an excuse,

"And believe me, Sir,

"Your well-wisher and humble servant,

(Signed)

"WALTER SCOTT.

"Abbotsford, near Melburn, N.B.

"Sept. 1821.

"P.S.—Your proposal to go to South America I cannot but consider as a circuitous and protracted mode of suicide, rendered more guilty than the ordinary mode, by the chance of your being engaged in some scenes of violence to others before you become a victim yourself."

In the second letter, Scott, finding that his advice to transfer his chief attention from literature to commerce was not likely to be followed, gives the best advice under the circumstances. After giving his opinion of the author's specimens of writing in a few sentences, as "having indication of considerable talent, a little immature, perhaps, and formed too much upon the imitation of what has made a just and natural impression on you," he goes on to say—

"I am far from desiring you to give up literature. On the contrary, I would advise you strongly to persevere in the cultivation of your mind, for every step in knowledge, properly considered and well used, is, or should be, a step in happiness.

"Give your time manfully to study; your character will become firmer, and your views of life more sunny.

"It signifies perhaps little what study you choose; that to which your taste most addicts you, or for which your situation affords the greatest facilities, will of course be most preferable. But do not throw away hope, or discontinue exertion, because you do not at once find yourself in the front rank of literature. Time, labour, and above all attention to character, are all necessary in our hard-working day to acquire any position of celebrity; and after all the public confers it very capriciously. Yet, in my long experience, I have seldom seen a man of real talent drop to leeward, except through his own fault."

In these last words lies the moral and point of the discussion as to the pursuit of literature as a profession. We are glad to find our own views on this matter ('Autobiography of William Jerdan,' ante, pp. 411 and 635) confirmed by authority so high as Sir T. Talfourd, enforced by the same arguments, and expressed almost in the same words:—

"Reviewing his course, I venture to suggest that lamentations over the miseries of a literary life, though often individually true in regard to the persons who make them, and wisely anticipated by Sir Walter Scott in the circumstances submitted to him, are not just in general application. They are often produced by one of two causes: the peculiar temptations which the bright aspects of literature hold out to persons wholly destitute of requisite taste to embrace it, and the selfish improvidence of others, who lay on literature the blame of indiscretion, which would have produced equal calamity in any other department of society, without the same means of awakening sympathy."

And again, after referring to the disasters of those who have fatally blundered in becoming authors at all, as "supplying no proof that literature, followed by persons endowed with reasonable ability, and pursued in the proper line with steadiness, is necessarily a desperate profession,"—

"Still less are the misfortunes which improvidence brings on individuals who have succeeded in obtaining a share of the public favour, proof of the general charge they advance. Their difficulties are not peculiar to the author's calling, and would have awaited them in any other. If a man, in any department of life, spends more than he earns, he must soon be immersed in embarrassment; and if he spends all that he earns, and dies in the prime of life, he must leave his family destitute; these are not the incidents of literature, but belong equally to all who have to carve out their own fortunes."

Trusting that we may not need soon to revert to this unpleasant but not unprofitable discussion, we have only to add a passing reference to the leading incidents of Mr. Deacon's literary career. In 1822 he published a volume of clever sketches of the manners and scenery of Wales, under the title of 'The Innkeeper's Album,' "with some profit and

more applause." In 1824 appeared his burlesque imitations, in prose and verse, of the style of the most popular living authors, 'Warreniana, or the Praises of Warren's Blacking,' by far the best attempt of the class since the matchless 'Rejected Addresses.' This obtained a satisfactory sale, as did a collection of essays and tales entitled 'November Nights.' On the death of his grandmother in 1829, and the loss of his annuity, he was driven to depend wholly on his exertions, and for a short time had to endure the drudgery of the situation of usher at a school at Dulwich. Fortunately he soon obtained his connexion with the 'Sun' newspaper, an engagement which enabled him to devote himself thenceforth entirely to literature. To 'Blackwood' and other periodicals he was an occasional contributor. In 1835 he published a humorous tale, in two volumes, 'The Exile of Erin; or, the Sorrows of a Bashful Irishman,' a pleasant history of an Irish Gil Blas, with satirical notices of O'Connell and other notorious Irish patriots. This work, we are told, also sold well, and was republished in America, "where it was largely bought, to the fame, but of course not to the profit, of the author:"—

"After a rapid decline of six weeks, he died on the 18th March, 1845, at his house in Malvern-terrace, Islington, surrounded by his family, in the forty-sixth year of his age."

Once more Sir Thomas Talfourd returns to the subject of his profession, and remarks that—

"Constant confinement to the labours of the desk would have probably led to an earlier development of the seeds of disease; and shut out from the Church by an honest consciousness that he had no mission for her holy offices, without stamina for the labours of the bar, or nerve for the study and practice of medicine, he could scarcely have obtained so comfortable a livelihood by any other course. Having regard to his delicate health and excitable temperament, I doubt whether he would have attained greater honour, or enjoyed more happiness, or left his family in better fortune, if he had taken any other path of life."

The novel 'Annette' does not call for much comment. As a posthumous work it is beyond the range of full criticism, which has regard to the author as well as the reader of what is under review. The events of the war in La Vendée, and the scenes of the French Revolution which are introduced into the story, are such as fiction can do little to invest with interest superior to what they bear in historical narrative. The best parts of Mr. Deacon's tale are those which are mere transcripts from the records of these times. The interwoven fiction is of a very slender and ordinary kind. Young De Chatillon, the son of one of the Vendean seigneurs, is all that a gallant and loyal Frenchman should be, and Annette, the daughter of a merchant at Nantes, is a heroine, beautiful and good, as might be expected. The historical sketches of the royal family, the escape from the Tuileries, in which De Chatillon is made to escort Marie Antoinette from the palace, of the *soirées* at Madame Roland's, of Danton, of the clubs, of Cathelineau, Charette, Rochejaquelin and the Vendéans, are drawn with much spirit and truth. The few fictitious characters of the story are well conceived and well sustained, especially Jacques, the valet turned republican, and M. Servette, the old Girondist, who had been De Chatillon's tutor. Some of the touches by which the features of their character are brought out would have occurred to no com-

monplace writer. Thus, during one of the terrible massacres of Paris, De Chatillon goes in search of his old friend, and finds him in his study, "with a pair of dusty horn spectacles on his nose, poring over some hints for a new constitution, which had been drawn up by Condorcet." The strange scenes through which the amusing Jacques passed are among the cleverest points of the novel. But on the whole there is nothing to entitle the author to any high place among the writers of fiction. The work has too many faults to admit of this. The want of originality is also apparent, Sir Walter Scott's novels being his model in his latest, as his poems were in Mr. Deacon's earliest performance. This imitation is displayed at times almost with needless honesty, as where, after describing the burning of a château by some peasants, he says that "the whole assembly, like the Edinburgh mob after the execution of Porteous, gradually melted away." The attack upon De Chatillon's château too much recalls that of the smugglers upon the Scottish mansion in 'Guy Mannering.' But in following Sir Walter Scott he is in the school of the great master of fiction, and it is no mean praise to say that he is one of his most successful imitators.

Rambles and Scrambles in North and South America. By Edward Sullivan, Esq. Bentley.

SINCE the publication of Mr. R. Gordon Cumming's stirring adventures in South Africa, we have not read a more lively and intelligent book of wild travels than the one before us. It is not such a tale of blood and daring, and the exploits of the buffalo-chaser are not so fearful or novel as those of the lion-hunter; but the dangers arising from his free and prolonged intercourse with the different scalping tribes of western Indians were of the most imminent kind; and these, with curious details of forest and prairie life, are related throughout with much shrewdness and vivacity. The opening of Mr. Sullivan's preface does not, perhaps, convey a very favourable impression of the author's powers, and the title of the book is not happily chosen. It is true we have had 'Pencilings,' and 'Tramps,' and 'Inklings,' and why not 'Rambles and Scrambles'? We should, however, have preferred a plainer literality, and, seeing that the traveller did not reach further south than Venezuela, his book should have been entitled 'Travels in North and Central America.' Notwithstanding the many books that have been written on North America, there is a freshness and vigour about Mr. Sullivan's narrative that gives us an interest in it from the moment he sets foot in New York. He is a good observer, and his criticisms of men and manners, while they are quick to appreciate on the one hand, and manly to remonstrate on the other, are generous and truthful. His remarks are always intelligent, lively, and unprejudiced, and he is never at a loss to give expression to the impulse of the moment.

We must not dwell with our author in the States, except for one word on the ladies:—

"The Boston ladies are excessively pretty and fascinating, and rather more *embonpoint* than their New York rivals, and you often meet with a complexion so transparent as to be quite startling. From the intense cold of the winter they very seldom leave their houses (which are heated with stoves) for months together; and to this circumstance I imagine a good deal of their delicate interesting appearance is to be attributed. There

is a great difference between the Boston and New York ladies. The former are inclined to be *blue*—attend anatomical lectures and dissections—prefer a new theory of geology or religion to a new fashion of dress or crochet-work. The New York ladies, on the contrary, have no tendency to blue-stock- ingism, and quite dread the character, wishing to be supposed capable of no more serious thought than that involved in the last new polka or the last wedding, and professing that there is nothing worth living for but balls and operas! The fair denizens of both cities, however, agree to dress in very good taste and style, and make the most of that fleeting beauty which is so fascinating for a time, but which so soon passes away. They adopt the French fashions completely, but they *Americanize* them rather too much, sometimes giving them the appearance of being *overdressed*—a mistake a Frenchwoman never makes—and the habit of wearing short sleeves (or rather no sleeves at all, but only a shoulder strap) at an early dinner, at two o'clock, is very unbecoming.

"The society of Boston is quite literary; as one young lady told me afterwards in the West country,—"In Boston we have an aristocracy of soul; in New York they have an aristocracy of money; in England of blood:—which is most worthy of an enlightened country?" The same young lady (a smart one, and no mistake) told me that Boston was the only place in the world where "the feast of reason could be enjoyed in perfection, combined with the proper amount of flow of soul." In New York and Paris, for instance, you can enjoy the flow of soul—in Cambridge or Oxford the feast of reason, (is that all you know of it? thought I,) but Boston is the only true combination of the two."

Proceeding to Niagara and Toronto, Mr. Sullivan gives a vivid account of the Horse-Shoe Falls, but these have been too often described to need mention, except for the sake of noticing the exclamation of a native young lady of his acquaintance, "Well now! that does beat all jumps, and no mistake!"

We pass on to the cypress forests:—

"The forests between Lake Superior and the Mississippi, where the country is very flat and wet, are composed almost entirely of black cypress; they grow so thick that the tops get intermixed and interlaced, and form almost a matting over head, through which the sun scarcely ever penetrates. The trees are covered with unwholesome-looking mosses, which exhale a damp earthy smell, like a cellar. The ground is so covered with a rank growth of elder and other shrubs, many of them with thorns an inch long, and with fallen and decayed trunks of trees, that it is impossible to take a step without breaking one's shins; not a bird or animal of any kind is to be seen, and a deathlike silence reigns through the forest, which is only now and then interrupted by the rattle of the rattlesnake, (like a clock going down,) and the chirrup of the chitnuck or squirrel. The sombre colour of the foliage, the absence of all sun even at midday, and the vault-like chilliness one feels when entering a cypress swamp, is far from cheering; and I don't know any position so likely to give one the horrors as being lost in one, or where one could so well realize what a desolate loneliness is. The wasps, whose nests like great gourds hang from the trees about the level of one's face; the mosquitos in millions; the little black flies, and venomous snakes, all add their 'little possible' to render a tramp through a cypress swamp agreeable."

"Monday, 8th.—We 'humped' it for eight hours through the thickest bush. Not a glimpse of sun all day; dark and damp, scrambling or falling at every step over fallen or rotten trunks of trees, hidden by rank coarse grass; we could not see six feet before us, and were being continually stung by the wasps, whose nests, hanging from the trees, we every now and then inadvertently capsized. We killed a tortoise and ate him: his flesh tasted like bad chicken."

Arriving at the territory of the Indians,

Mr. Sullivan comes up with a large encampment:—

"Crossing the Chippeway River, we at length reached 'Lac-qui-Parle,' and found a camp of nearly 200 'lodges,' about 2,000 Indians in all, collected from the Rocky Mountains and every part of the Sioux territory, waiting for McLeod's arrival with the ammunition, and also under the impression that there was a treaty pending with the American government respecting the purchase of some of their land bordering on the Mississippi. The first glimpse of the encampments, the setting sun shining on 200 cow-skin lodges, as white as snow, (the Indians kill the cows in summer for their lodges and for their own dresses, as the skins are not warm enough for the traders to buy,) with hundreds of horses tethered about, was altogether a highly picturesque and wild scene. There were about 200 young men, stripped to the waist, in their war-paint and plumes, performing the scalp-dance to the monotonous chant of about 200 squaws, who were squatted round forty poles, from which were suspended the scalps of some wretched Pawnee men, women, and children, which had been brought in by a war-party a few days before. They had come suddenly on the Pawnee encampment, whilst the warriors were on a hunt, and had made a great 'raise.' Every now and then during the dance, some warrior would dash forward and strike his tomahawk into some particular post, signifying that he was the 'brave' who had taken that scalp. Whereupon the squaws would redouble their chants, calling out his name, and extolling his bravery; and then suddenly changing their tones, they would break out into a yell, expressing contempt for the unfortunate deceased, calling him dog, coward, and other abusive epithets, and abusing his father, mother, and relatives to the latest generation. It is rather a disgusting sight, but gave us a greater idea of savage life than anything we saw during the trip. After we had watched them for some time, they broke up and crowded round us, staring, and handling our guns, pistols, &c., in rather too familiar a manner; so much so that McLeod, who knew some of the old chiefs, begged them to request the younger ones to desist, and I certainly felt my hair 'fixings' safer when they were at a little distance. A more savage bloodthirsty looking set of fellows (some painted like skeletons, and others all white, and some red) I never saw; and in the excited state they were in, I have no doubt if McLeod had not been known to them, they would not have minded trying the effect of a white scalp in contrast to the Pawnees. We retired for the night to McLeod's log-hut, which was built of blocks of timber, laid together in the rough, and made strong enough to resist any attack. Directly we began our supper, about thirty of the chiefs of the different tribes came in, and turning out all the young men, who again began to annoy us, and rolling themselves up in their blankets and robes, sat smoking till we had finished."

After staying with the Indians at Lac-qui-Parle for some time, the traveller obtained a guide to conduct his party to Buffalo. Starting in the direction of the head-water of the Missouri, and passing Beaver River, an extensive prairie had to be crossed:—

"We continued to press onward through an open prairie, burnt as far as the eye could reach. The country was as black as pitch, and every now and then we came upon heaps of buffalo bones, where some band had been overtaken by the fire. A burnt prairie has a very diminishing effect on a landscape, rendering it impossible to judge of distances or the size of different objects; also on horses, when they have been on it for two or three days. We overtook an Indian village on the march; the men carried nothing, but the women and dogs had enormous burdens; the latter could hardly creep along under them, but woe betide any unfortunate cur that lagged behind, or tried to lie down: some wizened old squaw would make a rush at him with a lodge-pole, and strike hard enough

to break every bone in his body. The buffalo robes, full of puppies and children, with their little red noses peeping out in a confused mass, had a most ludicrous effect. At night, when we camped, three Indians came in: they had also come from Lac-qui-Parle, and were on their way to join the Indian village that was hunting on the Shian, whither we were going; consequently they joined our company. One was a very old Indian, and another was an old friend, Le Bœuf Levé. Their reserve when they first came in was very remarkable. Although it was bitter cold, and we had a fine fire, having brought wood with us from Big-stone Lake, and were eating largely of pork and flour, whilst these warriors had not tasted anything for a distance of one hundred miles but half a skunk (or *bête puante*, as the half-breeds call them), the most offensively nasty of all animals, yet when they came in they sat down about a hundred yards from the fire, and did not attempt to address us, or warm themselves, till we invited them to do so.

* * * * *

"For two or three consecutive days we 'racked' along as fast and as well as our horses would carry us, most of the time through burnt prairies; the weather was bitterly cold, and it had snowed more or less every day since we left Lac-qui-Parle. The excitement of the Indians as the tracks of buffalo became fresher was very great. At last, one morning, we came upon the gory remains of several bulls and cows that the Indians had killed a few days before. Soon after we saw the Indians, who had pressed on before, on the top of a slight eminence that commanded a view of the prairie for many miles in every direction, waving their buffalo robes, and galloping about like wild demons. On joining them we found them in the greatest state of delight. They pointed out something to us at a great distance, but we could see nothing. At length, after some time, we saw a sort of flash of the sun, as if a reflection from water. On our guides coming up they told us that what we saw was some Indian sent out from the village to meet our friends, to give them good tidings of the buffalo; that although we could not see him on account of the distance, he could see us, being on an elevation against the light, and had flashed a looking-glass to attract attention. It is a plan always pursued by the Indians, and they say they can see it at a distance of ten miles.

"In the evening we met the Indian who had flashed the glass. He was a boy about fifteen, the son of the old chief who was with us. He had been out two days and nights from the village, quite alone, to meet his father, and bring him some pimecan, or buffalo-meat pounded up with grease. The meeting was very affectionate, and the chief immediately adorned his son with a blue surtout with brass buttons, like a parish beadle's, that had been given him by the American agent, and was too small for his obese body. He said buffalo were plenty, both cows and bulls, and that the Indians had killed fifty the day before.

"Some of our party saw buffalo next day at a great distance off, and the delight was very great. We continued our route to the banks of the Shian, where we came to the village of Indians, consisting of about twenty lodges we were in search of. Meat was plentiful, and every available pole and stick was adorned with flakes of meat hung up to dry. Here our guides, who had for some days been very restive and impertinent on account of our abusing them for their beastly laziness and the slowness of our progress, thought fit to leave us and to take up their abode in some one of the Indian lodges. It was a bitter cold night, snow falling thick, with a piercing wind, and we had to remain in great misery, without fire or food, watching our traps, whilst within a quarter of a mile were the Indian lodges, and our rascally guides gorging themselves on fat cow. There were two or three score of sneaking, thieving-looking wretches loping about our little camp and laughing at us, and I have no doubt insulting us grossly, only luckily we did not understand them.

* * * * *

"Next morning, on turning out, stiff and cold,

we found our guides were missing. We entered several lodges to try and discover them; we were most hospitably treated at all of them, masses of half-boiled meat being invariably offered. Our researches proving unavailing, we got hold of an old chief, and taking him to our camp, we gave him some tobacco and sugar, and tried to impress upon him that we wanted to go to his lodge; I don't think he clearly understood what we meant, but to prevent mistakes, we shifted our baggage there, and took up our residence with him. We remained in his lodge six or seven days, and during the whole of that time, though continually mobbed by Indians, we did not lose the value of a sixpence. Of course our intercourse was entirely by signs, and those of an obscure description, but as it snowed hard during the whole of that time, and we had some tea and coffee, and the small remains of the flour, we managed tolerably well. We held a continual levee, and there were never less than twenty or thirty Indians, looking at us most intently, particularly during our meals. The coffee and tea were great treats to them; the latter we made twice, and then boiled, and the former we kept continually boiling from morning till night. The chief, in whose lodge we had taken up our residence, was the finest specimen of an Indian I ever saw, both in appearance and nature; he was called 'Wah-ton-she,' which signifies the 'good man,' in consequence of his amiable qualities; his affection for his wife and children was very remarkable, especially for the latter, and there was one little boy, about two years old, whom he used to nurse and cram with fat cow till it could hardly breathe, and when it arrived at that state of repletion that one expected it to explode every moment, he used to get a lump of fat, and grease it well about the digestive organs, which seemed to give it great relief, and then lay it down before the fire till it subsided into something like its natural shape.

* * * * *

"The prairie Indians are most completely dependent on the buffalo. Everything that supports existence is derived from them; lodges, beds, robes, mocassins, leggings, saddles, are all made from their skins; powder-flasks are made from their horns, needles from the small bones, their ribs make bows, and the arrows are tipped with bone. When they are plentiful the Indians live in clover, and when scarce they starve. No wonder they think and talk of nothing else, from the time they can first prattle till they are old veterans. It appears to me, that many of the arguments adduced in favour of the Asiatic descent of the American Indians (founded on a similarity of customs and habits with the inhabitants of Asia) are unsound. Between two races of men living entirely by hunting, there must in any age be a great similarity of tastes and pursuits; the thoughts and anxieties of both must be continually about their safety and the means of procuring their food and clothing. The habits and thoughts of the hunter on the plains of Asia and on the shores of the Danube must be much the same as the thoughts and habits of the hunter on the shores of the Mississippi or the prairies of America."

Enormous boulders of granite were found in the prairie, transported apparently on blocks of ice at a time when it must have been the bed of an ocean.

With an extract of philological interest, we must bring our notice for this week to a close:—

"I have often heard the remark, that it is a great pity some man of science and perseverance does not devote some years to acquiring the different Indian languages, and trying to form some general hypothesis of their origin, from the different customs and traditions extant amongst them. This is very true, and is a consummation devoutly to be wished; but the extraordinary number and complexity of the languages of the Aborigines of America, north and south, completely put it out of the power of one, or even of a dozen philologists, to perform properly. There are as many languages spoken amongst the two or three millions of

American savages scattered over the two continents of America, as amongst the six hundred millions of human beings composing the population of the rest of the globe. There are no less than 211 languages spoken in the northern continent and Mexico: 44 in central, and 168 in the southern continent of America. There are thus, according to Vatel, nearly 500 distinct dialects spoken in the New World, without enumerating any which do not differ from each other as widely as the Spanish from the Italian, or the German from the Dutch. After a laborious comparison of the 500 known languages of America with those of the Old World, only some hundred or so words have been found having any distinct, or rather indistinct resemblance. Those few words have been selected from nearly 100 American languages, and are said to bear a kind of resemblance to words at present used in the Mongol, Tonguse, and other northern Asiatic nations; some few also bear a slight resemblance to words in the Celtic and Biscayan languages. These trifling and most probably fortuitous resemblances, although affording a slight foundation on which any number of theoretical superstructures may be raised, are quite insufficient to be of any use in solving the problem, as to how the American continent was peopled. The more an unprejudiced person examines the numerous theories on the subject, the more completely must he be convinced that the data and facts upon which the different theories are founded are insufficient for conclusive argument."

We shall return to the book for an account of Mr. Sullivan's 'Rambles' in Central America.

Das Germanische Todtenlagen bei Selzen in der Provinz Rheinhessen, dargestellt und erläutert von den Gebrüdern W. und L. Lindenschmit. Mainz.

BEING in German this work is not so well known in this country as it deserves to be; there is much in it that should interest both the antiquary and the ethnologist. It is not long since we noticed a book containing a concise account of the explorations of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Fairford in Gloucestershire; the present volume treats of a burial-ground of the same period at Selzen in Germany. The site is thus described:—

"In coming from the old Frankish Nirestein by the castle of Schwabsburg, and in approaching the hamlet of Selzen, we arrive first at a hill sloping gently towards the brook of Selzen, the ancient Salusia. Here, within the heights that bound the view, we overlook a beautiful spot blessed with corn, fruit, and wine, a spot thickly peopled from the oldest times. In this locality numerous antiquities have from time to time been discovered. Here stand those huge unhewn stones,—those boundary pillars or divinities of times anterior to the Romans; here the hoe and the spade of the husbandman turn up the stone weapons and utensils of a primitive race, and the pick strikes occasionally on the foundations of ancient buildings and sarcophagi."

This might furnish the exordium of a similar account of the Saxon burial-places in many a peaceful nook in England. Like them, too, the burial-ground is situated near the more modern church. We think it not unlikely that many pagan Saxon cemeteries were consecrated, and being thus rendered "God's acre," the church was built upon them. Accident, as is most frequently the case, appears to have led to the discovery of the graves here described minutely and with acumen. Those who have witnessed similar excavations in England, will be interested with the striking resemblance between their contents and those of the graves explored in this country. The tenants of these narrow houses were deposited generally at their

length, with the weapons or the implements that served them in the not unfrequent strifes of those unsettled days, or the more peaceful occupation of everyday life; and the women were consigned to the earth with those much loved objects of personal ornament which the sex still prize as dearly as these Frankish maidens and matrons. The graves lay from east to west like those discovered in East Kent. The first skeleton discovered was that of a woman:—

"Her necklace consisted of five amber beads, twenty-one yellow and ten of red clay; seven white and nine black in glass. At the feet was a grey coloured vase. A small iron knife lay on the knees, and a single silver ear-ring was found on the right side of the head. The second grave contained the skeleton of an armed man. The sword and the knives showed traces of the wooden handles, and long fibres of wood still remained in the socket of the spear. The shears, flint and steel, the comb of hard wood, and the small bronze tweezers, still elastic, lay on the left hip, and were probably placed in a pouch suspended from the girdle. A drinking cup of glass (one of those vessels which would not stand if placed on its bottom), was deposited within a saucer of earthenware."

These are the very types of Anglo-Saxon interments of the same period—namely, the last period of paganism in France and Germany. In one of these graves the skeleton of a horse's head was found, and between two others the entire skeleton of a horse, thus verifying the description of Tacitus in his account of this race of men at an earlier period, when cremation appears to have been the sole rite—*quorundam igni et equus adjicitur*.

The skeletons were all of large proportions, both male and female. The skulls divided in the sutures, and many of them had perished, but enough were preserved to enable the intelligent author of this curious work to deduce from them the fact of their belonging to a race whose physical characteristics cannot be mistaken. The crania, he tells us, are neither those of the mixed races of the Caucasus or the Mediterranean, nor of the Mongolian or African tribes. They are lofty skulls, neither long nor broad; on them grew no black but light hair, and the orbs which once filled the sockets were not black but blue, and light, as contemporary writers inform us. With all the men traces of a wide belt or girdle were perceptible, and the buckles found about the region of the waist plainly indicated how they had been fastened. Small buckles discovered on the ankles or knees may have served to fasten those straps or bands with which the Franks defended their legs, and which may be seen represented in some ancient illuminations. Nearly all of them had flints and steel. The coins found in these graves, though in themselves insignificant, were in other respects of the highest importance to the investigator. They furnish evidence of the most conclusive kind. In one grave a small coin of the Constantine family, much worn, and pierced for suspension, showed that these graves date from a period later than the days of that prince, while another piece of Justinian brings it at least as low as the latter half of the sixth century.

Twenty-one lithographic plates show the skeleton as first discovered, and the relative position of the arms and implements deposited with it. A glance at them will be sufficient to justify the preceding remarks on the striking affinity of these Selzen graves and those of the Anglo-Saxon period in this country.

Two Historical Dramas or Tragedies. By Juvenis. Saunders and Otley.

CRITICS are sometimes too severe on young authors for one thing which rather deserves praise than censure. In the Fine Arts, students are always recommended to imitate the works of the great masters, nor is it any disgrace to be reckoned of the school of some celebrated painter, or to copy the sculptured memorials of ancient genius. But in literature, if the same course is adopted, the young aspirant is cried down as an imitator and a copyist. We should remember that originality of invention is the rarest of all gifts, and that in the absence of it, the imitation of the most approved models is the surest way to dignify mediocrity, and the safest method of educating talent. We do not therefore blame the youthful author of 'Manlius' and of 'Tullus Hostilius,' two historical dramas, or the close study of great writers everywhere apparent in his work. In the character of *Manlius* we are reminded of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*. Thus, in expressing contempt for the Roman mob:—

"He that would take the rabble's shouts for love,
And cringe to popular voice for empire's seat,
Must not unarmed attempt a victory!
O, what a scourge is this opprobrious race
Upon my cause—the cause of liberty!
I have for them renounced all dignities
In civil service and the battle's front
To be the leader of an heedless mob!"

In a scene soon after, where *Manlius* and *Servilius*, his friend, have a dispute, the famous passage of *Brutus* and *Cassius* is recalled. Having hinted mutually about treason and unfaithfulness:—

"*Man.* Thou art,—but *Manlius* ne'er can call thee so.
Serv. Thou hast no cause to taint thy lips withal;
And therefore durst not by thy life speak thus.
Man. Durst not! thou art a traitor if thou call'st
(*Servilius draws.*)

Manlius a traitor, who oft maimed thy foes,
And in the hour of danger imminent
Stretched forth a hand that saved thee—
(*He sheaths again.*)

Thus to be set at nought by thy distemper!
O gods! what grace sufficient thus to cope
With treacherous friends, that once held dear alliance.
Leave me, *Servilius*; *Manlius* will not sue
For false return even at *Servilius*' hand.

Serv. *Manlius*, thou wrong'st me with a triple scourge;
Thy friend did never call or think thee traitor;
Nor played the traitor to thy cause or thee.
Nor for his life would injure thy fair name,
Dearer to me than all that earth call great."

Other passages we might cite, illustrating what the author well expresses in three of his own lines:—

"Things second-hand are seldom good as new,
For either they do lose their primal gloss,
Or gather must by dull hyperbole."

Some of the speeches in the senate, and dialogues of the mob, are well conceived and ably written. The first scene of the third Act, containing the resolution of *Publius*, one of the tribunes, and of the *Brutus* of that day, to oppose the dictator *Camillus*, has some spirited passages:—

"If so; I wear a dagger, that shall free
The Roman state from one man's tyranny;—
Either to free all men from his control,
Or, for myself, to liberate this soul:
For wherein he is weak, we have a power,
If wrapt in chains, to find fair freedom's dower,
And tyranny's false yoke; no Tarquin e'er
Could overcast my soul with wasteful fear."

Brutus. Thou hast spoken well. Time fails me to reveal
My own heart's warmth in this bold enterprise.
My noble ancestor the senate freed
From tyranny of Rome's last flagrant king.
So shall the name of *Brutus* ever live
Champion of liberty, advocate of right,
Of right oppress'd, against the galling fetters
Of arch-intruders, and vain grasping lords.
Take heart, noble *Publius*, the scale
Hangs dubious on the balance; and 'tis we
Must with our weight incline it 'gainst this despot."

The other tragedy, *Tullus Hostilius*, has fewer points of interest, the combat of the

Horatii and *Curiatii*, and the story connected with it, hardly affording scope for a complete drama. The author here shows much of the correct precision of the school of Corneille, of whose works the frequent quotations in foot-notes prove him to have been a diligent student. One of these quotations contains the original sentiment which was so much paraphrased and parodied in the French Revolution of 1848—

"Mourir pour le pays est un si digne sort
Qu'on briguerait en foule une si belle mort."
Les Hor., Act ii. sc. 3.

We have said enough to show that the writer of these plays has considerable ability and taste, and, what augurs well for future success, a diligent desire to improve by the study of good models.

NOTICES.

Magnetical Investigations. By the Rev. William Scoresby, D.D., F.R.S. Vol. II. With Illustrations. Longman & Co.

The former parts of this work appeared at different periods, the first in 1839, the second in 1843, the two, connected and arranged, being published in one volume in 1844. The third and fourth parts of Dr. Scoresby's series of investigations now appear, after long delay, arising partly from an accident, by which the author was unfitted for labour, and partly from desire to present the work in as complete a state as continued researches would permit. Although a continuation of the former work, the present volume relates to a particular department of magnetic investigation, that belonging to Terrestrial Induction, upon the facts connected with which it forms a distinct and complete treatise. The practical bearings of this branch of the science need not be pointed out. The introduction of iron-built ships, both for war and commerce, renders these magnetic inquiries of immediate national importance. Dr. Scoresby has already introduced or suggested various improvements in magnetic instruments, and especially in common compass-needles, meriting more marked recognition of his services than he has hitherto received. The present treatise opens with a general statement of the earth's inductive magnetic action, and the phenomena resulting from it. The action of terrestrial magnetism on iron and steel of various kinds and of different proportions, as to surface and mass, is then described. Next, the effects of percussion, bending, friction, and other mechanical action, in modifying the earth's influence, are investigated. Other chapters present experiments on the development of magnetical properties in steel and iron by percussion, aided by contact with iron bars previously magnetized by hammering, on the results of which experiments conclusions are drawn as to the relations of the comparative magnetical influences of mechanical operations and of heat to the terrestrial induction. From this, the investigation takes a practical aspect, in considering how magnetic disturbances may be adjusted, and how the metal may be brought to a state of equilibrium, whether in the magnetical or neutral condition. In all these inquiries Dr. Scoresby combines patient and skilful scientific research with the experience of a practical navigator. It is interesting for the venerable author to record how, so long ago as 1815, he commenced formal observations on the anomalous indications of the compass, and how these observations led to the framing of a table of errors for correcting the compass courses in the ships which he commanded, and also the planting of a standard compass at the main-top-gallant mast-head, where it was wholly free from the influence of the iron in the ship's hold. The construction of ships entirely of iron has added new difficulties to these magnetic investigations. The whole of the latter half of the volume, containing the fourth series of Dr. Scoresby's 'Investigations,' is devoted to this subject. A statement is given of the present information possessed as to the mag-

netic condition of the materials of iron-built ships, with an analysis of experimental researches as to the means of changing the distribution of the magnetisms of these materials, followed by practical deductions and suggestions, from the author's own experiments as well as the researches of others. The concluding chapter contains a number of examples in recent naval annals, illustrative of the principles and researches in the previous part of the volume. These cases are selected down to the most recent events. The melancholy loss of the Birkenhead troop-ship is narrated; and the chief cause of the catastrophe is ascribed to compass misguidance. Dr. Scoresby's book is full of interest to the general scientific reader, as well as of value in its direct bearings on practical navigation.

A Guide to the Knowledge of the Heavens, for the Use of Schools and Families. By Robert James Mann. Norwich: Jarrold and Sons.

MR. MANN is already known as an able lecturer by his valuable treatise on 'The Planetary and Stellar Universe.' In the present work he shows that he can successfully adapt his style to popular and familiar discourse. Simple without being superficial, and plain without any sacrifice of philosophical truth, this 'Guide' presents an excellent summary of the facts of astronomical science. The author does not pretend that astronomy can be made easy; this, he justly remarks, would be "to divest it of its attractive beauties, to shear it of its locks of strength, and to render it not worth knowing." But with a view of its being valuable as an educational aid this manual is prepared. Judicious instructors will readily perceive the advantages of a text-book written in such a spirit by a man of acumen. The form of question and answer is adopted, while notes in smaller type convey much miscellaneous matter for study or exposition. Frequent illustrations and diagrams facilitate the intelligent study of the text. In the appendix much valuable information is given on the most interesting and recent discoveries and inventions in astronomical science and art. It is one of the best elementary works on astronomy for educational use that has yet been presented to the public.

Erläuterung der Keilinschriften babylonischer Backsteine. Von Dr. G. F. Grotefend. Hanover: Hahwi. London: Williams and Norgate.

A LEARNED and valuable treatise on the cuneiform inscriptions on Babylonian bricks, from the pen of Dr. Grotefend, of classic reputation. It contains interpretations of two Babylonian inscriptions, an essay on Assyrian-Babylonian astronomy, an explanation of some oriental cylinders, and the interpretation of the first fourteen lines of the obelisk of Nimroud. There is also the usual addition of a print with a fac-simile of the inscriptions and figures. To the students of Layard, Rich, and Rawlinson, this will be a valuable acquisition.

Almanach de la Littérature, du Théâtre, et des Beaux Arts. Paris: Pagnerre.

THIS is a new contribution to the immense legion of almanacks which the Paris presses pour forth every year; and it is a very elegant, clever, and useful one. In addition to the usual matter contained in such things, it gives the names of the members and officers of academies and learned societies, details respecting the different public libraries and theatres, and, generally, all sorts of information likely to be useful to literary men and artists. It is preceded by an article entitled the 'Histoire Littéraire de l'Année,' by Jules Janin. In this paper a rapid notice is given of all the principal literary and dramatic productions of the year, and all are praised somewhat hyperbolically. M. Janin, we perceive, asserts that "the intellectual labour of France never stops, whatever may happen." If this be true, only a small portion of the labour sees the light in revolutionary times. Since the great event of 1848, for example, what has France produced for literature or art? Scarcely a single work which has attracted the serious attention of contemporaries, and scarcely one "which posterity will be unwilling to let die." If M. Janin had called this to mind, he would have talked more modestly of his country in his account of the year.

A Dirge for Wellington. By Martin F. Tupper, Author of 'Proverbial Philosophy.' Hatchards. ALTHOUGH Mr. Tupper is not the 'pensioned laureate,' he is the readiest of all our poets on great national occasions. His joyous hymn at the opening of the Crystal Palace was sounded in many languages, while Tennyson's lyre was mute in silence. And now he shapes the deep wailing of national grief into a dirge for the great Wellington. We cannot say that the poetry is worthy of the occasion, or even equal to Mr. Tupper's usual efforts. The sentiments are all admirable, and are fit utterances of the national feeling, but the words are not equal to the theme. Sometimes the happiest effusions of genius have been hastily thrown off, but we have here the rude form without the energetic power of successful improvising. Had Mr. Tupper taken time to elaborate and condense his materials, the present piece contains thought enough for a noble dirge, but we fear that in its present diffuse and crude state it will only have a passing interest. We give the best of the twenty-three stanzas:—

I.
"A voice of lamentation
From the islands of the Sea!
Alas, thou sorrowing Nation
Bereav'd,—Alas for Thee!
The wail as of a mother
Weeping for her son,—
When shall she bear another
Like that illustrious One?"

IX.
"Meekly with charitable gaze
His faults or foibles scan,—
For he might walk this earthly maze
Not more, nor less, than man;
Doubtless, he owned to sins and wrongs
Like all beside that live,—
Yet, unto us his good belongs,
His ill—may God forgive!"

X.
"But stoutly, too, with glad acclaim
Tell out his honest worth,—
There never lived a child of fame
More childlike on this earth!
Simple in heart, sincere in mind,
Just, resolute, and true,
Duty was all he strove to find,
And all he dared to do!"

In stanzas thirteenth to eighteenth are enumerated some of his military deeds from Assaye to Waterloo. One of the Peninsular stanzas we quote:

XVI.
"Of Fabian caution, lingering well
Before the leaguered fosse,
Let ridgy Torres Vedras tell
And storm-won Badajoz:
Of Julian vigour, swift to wreak
Full vengeance on the Gaul,
In thunder, San Sebastian, speak
To Ciudad's echoing wall!"

The dirge thus concludes:—

XXII.
"He lives, by trophies of the sword,
By triumphs of the pen,—
He lives, by noble deed and word
Within the hearts of men:
He is not dead, but sleepeth,—
Then why should Britain go
As one that sorely weepeth
Uncomforted in woe?"

XXIII.
"With every earthly honour won,
And every praise achieved,
With every human duty done
His crown of light is weaved:
On Heaven's own archives, man may trust,
Not less than history's page,
His high reward is—With the Just
To live in every age!"

Something yet worthier of the theme, from Tennyson or other poet, we still hope to see.

SUMMARY.

In the 'Traveller's Library,' a new number, the thirty-first, contains a *Memoir of the Duke of Wellington*, being a reprint of the articles in 'The Times' of the 15th and 16th of September. The memoir is one which has evidently been prepared with elaborate care, accurate as a narrative of facts, and presenting an able statement of the history and character of the great Duke. Its instant republication is an example of well-timed literary enter-

prise, and forms a valuable addition to the series of the 'Traveller's Library.' The two numbers containing the story of *The Battle of Leipzig*, by the Rev. G. R. Gleig, Chaplain-General of the Forces, have also appeared. Without any pretension to original research, the author gives an able and interesting summary of that part of the career of Napoleon, and the wars of Europe, of which the battle of Leipzig formed the concluding and most conspicuous event. Beginning with an account of the state of the Continent in 1811, in the spring of which year the fortunes of Napoleon and the French empire are described as having 'reached their culminating point,' the campaign of Russia, and the consequent rousing of Germany against the Emperor, with the events of 1812 and 1813, are narrated with a spirit such as might be expected from the writer of the story of Waterloo. The present work lacks the concentration of interest, and unity of subject, which gave such advantage in the other narrative, but Mr. Gleig has done all that could be done to present a faithful, graphic, and stirring narrative of the great campaigns which led to the first overthrow of Napoleon and his banishment to Elba. With the companion volume a complete view is presented of one of the most important pages of modern history.

In the form of a tale, *Agnes, the Possessed*, a strange account is given of many of the phenomena of mesmerism, by T. S. Arthur. The reader will be convinced more and more of the influence of this power, puzzled by its manifestations, and perhaps persuaded by the author that they are the result of Satanic influence; or, as he more mildly expresses it, are "of a disorderly and, therefore, evil origin."

Six Lectures on the Christian Evidences, by John Cook, D.D., addressed to students attending the University of St. Andrews, are dry in their manner and uncouth in their style, but contain solid arguments and clear statements on all the leading points of this department of theology.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone has published a volume of *Parish Sermons*, preached for the most part at his former sphere of duty, Trinity Church, Upper Dicker, Sussex. An honourable peculiarity belongs to this publication in its being at the request of an anonymous hearer, who guarantees immunity from loss, expressing a desire that the profits, if any, should be devoted to the benefit of the African mission. The work exhibits an earnest piety and sound judgment, which it is satisfactory to find in one now occupying so important a station. We have met with few modern volumes of sermons equal to these at once in matter and style, spiritual, simple, and scriptural.

For the expeditious calculation of eclipses of all ages, an astronomical process bearing directly on questions of past literature and history, *Brief Astronomical Tables*, with explanatory statements, have been drawn up by Mr. W. Drew Snook, who read a paper on the subject before the Isle of Wight Philosophical and Scientific Society. The system on which the tables are formed is ingenious, and the accuracy of the results of their use may be easily tested. To chronologists, and to some engaged in special investigations, this assistance in verifying dates may be of service.

In Chapman's 'Library for the People,' a third edition is issued of Francis William Newman's metaphysico-theological essay, *The Soul, its Sorrows and Aspirations*. The lovers of philosophy and bold speculation on matters of philosophy and religion cannot but admire the work, and will be pleased to observe its popularity. This is owing more, however, to the earnestness of the author's style than to the soundness of his matter. Another work of the same rationalistic school is published in the 'Catholic Series,' *A Discourse of Matters pertaining to Religion*, by Theodore Parker, of Massachusetts. The work presents the substance of a series of lectures delivered in Boston ten years ago, and is of established repute among Unitarians in America.

To Biblical students, *The Journal of Sacred Literature* continues to afford a monthly supply of varied and valuable matter in criticism, interpre-

tation, biography, ecclesiastical history, and all departments of theological literature. The work deserves to be more widely known, being ably conducted, and containing much information.

The Geological Society of Dublin have just issued the Second Part of Vol. V. of their *Journal*. It contains a paper 'On the Movements of Post-tertiary and other Discontinuous Masses,' by Mr. Mallet; 'Notes on the Geology of Rathlin Island,' and 'On the Serpentine of Cornwall and Connemara,' by Professor Haughton; other articles by Messrs. Jukes, Crawford, and Hamilton; and the President's Annual Address. To these are added some indifferently lithographed sections.

Of the following we must give little more than the titles. *England's Foreign Policy; or, The Grey-Whigs and Cotton-Whigs*, by Thomas Wilson, Esq., in which the author declaims against the foreign administration of affairs, particularly with regard to the Belgian constitution. *An Elementary Treatise on Logic*, well adapted for public instruction or for private study, presenting a compact and well-arranged view of the various branches of scholastic logic. *Epigrammata*, scriptore Θ , a brochure of meritorious college exercises. *The Hecuba of Euripides*, with English notes, in Arnold's series of school classics.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Art Union Gallery, proof plates, folio, cloth, £1 1s.
Bartlett's (W. H.) Walks about Jerusalem, royal 8vo, 12s.
Bradley's Practical Sermons for every Sunday, 8vo, 12s.
Brown's Three Years in Europe, foolscap cloth, 3s. 6d.
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THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

It has been well decided that Wellington is to be laid beside Nelson in St. Paul's Cathedral. To be the mausoleum of England's greatest naval and greatest military commander is a purpose worthy of the noble edifice. The monuments of the mighty dead are not foreign to a place consecrated to the worship of God, who gave them the power to perform the services to their country and to mankind which are thus commemorated. The postponement of the funeral till the meeting of Parliament will give time for arrangements being made for a national demonstration worthy of the occasion. The daily journals still continue to be filled with matter pertaining to the history and character of 'the Duke.' Little has yet appeared adding to what was known of his public or private life. In the estimates of his character, and of his deeds, whether as a warrior or a statesman, there is wonderful unanimity in the expression of public opinion. The only exceptions are to be found in some of the Irish papist papers, whose censure is to be regarded as highest eulogy. If the French journalists give bare justice to the greatness of Wellington, allowance must be made for the diffi-

culty and delicacy of their theme. The summing up of the article in the 'Constitutionnel' is worthy of quotation. "Wellington was an English general in the fullest acceptation of the word—cool, calm, methodical, without enthusiasm, but without any false brilliancy, sure of himself, confident in his soldiers, and always firm both in good and bad fortune. It has been justly remarked, that in the numerous despatches which he published, and which form twelve enormous volumes, the word *glory* never occurs. His only dominant passion was love of his country. His conduct and his character may be summed up in a word: he was Pitt on horseback." With regard to the use of the word 'glory,' an anecdote is told on good authority, that Wellington thus referred to the remark as made by M. Cormenin:—"Some Frenchman," observed the Duke, "has said that the word *duty* is to be found in every page of my despatches, and the word *glory* not once. This is meant, I am told, as a reproach; but the foolish fellow does not see that, if mere *glory* had been my object, the doing my *duty* must have been the means." The most generous tributes from the French press have been in the 'Assemblée Nationale' and the 'Moniteur de l'Armée.' The former journal has been vehemently attacked by its contemporaries for the fervour of its praise. The 'Moniteur de l'Armée' says, "Nothing can prevent us from recognising in so illustrious an adversary the high qualities, without which, notwithstanding those happy circumstances which favoured him, he would never have obtained those successes over our armies which we have to deplore." In the 'Brussels Herald' a letter is given, said to be before unpublished, from the Duke to Sir John Flint, written at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 19th June, 1815:—

"Brussels, 19 June, 1815.

"What do you think of the total defeat of Buonaparte by the British army? Never was there in the annals of the world so desperate or so hard fought an action, or such a defeat. It was really the battle of the giants. My heart is broken by the terrible loss I have sustained of my old friends and companions, and my poor soldiers! and I shall not be satisfied with this battle, however glorious, if it does not of itself put an end to Buonaparte."

We think the editor is mistaken in supposing this note to have been never published, at least it is familiar to our memory, but its reappearance is acceptable at the present time. Many such passages may be gathered from his correspondence, illustrating the warm and tender feeling of the 'Iron Duke.' It is remarkable that about the date of the birth both of Napoleon and Wellington doubt should have so long continued to rest. The time of the Emperor's birth is not yet satisfactorily cleared up, but a letter published this week in 'The Times,' written by the Duke's mother, the Countess of Mornington, puts an end to all question as to his real anniversary:—

"London, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square.

April 6, 1815.

"Sir,—In answer to your inquiry respecting my son, the Duke of Wellington, I inform you that he was born on the 1st of May, 1769. I am much flattered by your intention of celebrating his birthday. The good wishes and prayers of worthy respectable persons I trust will continue to my son the good fortune and success which it has hitherto pleased the Almighty to grant him in the service of his King and his country."

"I happened yesterday to meet with a very striking likeness of the Duke, which you will do me a favour by accepting from your very humble servant,

"ANNE MORNINGTON."

The letter is addressed to Mr. James Cuthbertson, Seaton Mains, by Tranent, by a relative of whom it is now made public.

Of the numerous public offices rendered vacant by his death, the most important has been filled up to the universal satisfaction of the nation, in the appointment of Lord Hardinge as Commander-in-Chief. The Chancellorship of the University of Oxford continues to be the cause of disgraceful exhibitions of academic party zeal. We noticed last week the indecent haste with which many of the resident members of convocation held a meeting, within a few hours after the intelligence of the Duke's death, at which little reference was made to the illustrious departed, but scheming and squabbling commenced as to how the event could be best turned to account in the election of a suc-

cessor. Poor old nonagenarian Dr. Routh has been since got to head a requisition to the Earl of Derby, with the Bishop of Exeter's name second on the list, which is already signed by all who have any hope of gain from ministerial patronage, and any fear of loss from University Reform. Whether Lord Derby will be the most suitable Chancellor it is not for us to express an opinion, but his present advocates at Oxford form the only exception, along with some rare fanatics in Ireland, to the decorous and honourable manner in which the national feeling of regretful sorrow has been displayed. Of the conscientious and diligent attention of the late Chancellor to his official duties a striking proof is afforded by the fact of one of his latest occupations at Walmer being the study of the blue book of the Oxford University Commissioners. He had gone through the volume to within a few of the closing pages at the time of his death, a task which few of our public men will have the conscience or patience to accomplish. We fear much that the new Chancellor will give up University Reform as the price of the fuller political support of the High Church party. Literature and science will thus directly suffer by the loss of the great warrior, whose judicious sagacity appreciated, and whose honest counsel could not but have supported the suggestions of the commissioners for Academical reform.

BERANGER.

BERANGER, the old French poet, who has been mute for many years past, has at length delighted the world, though not the party which just now reigns in France, with some verses that remind us of his happiest days, and which, though only allowed to circulate in written copies, have achieved as great a popularity as the 'Roy d'Yvetot' did in its time. Possibly the omen may be as significant. The following is the text of Beranger's last lines:—

LE COQ ET L'AIGLE.

Aigle orgueilleux, tu me bannis—
A toi palais, pompe guerrière,
A toi les étendards bénis—
A moi l'atelier, la chaumière.
Je vois sans fiel et sans chagrin
Tout l'éclat dont tu te dories—
J'en ai vu d'autres, mon voisin,
J'en verrai bien d'autres encore.

Quand Rome ici fut apportée,
Regrettant nos vieilles franchises,
Tranquillement je suis monté
Sur le clocher de mon église.
Pendant mille ans sous un ciel noir
J'attendis la nouvelle aurore—
Déjà deux fois j'ai cru la voir—
Le vieux coq peut attendre encore!

Es-tu l'aigle noir de Berlin,
L'aigle blanc égorgeant son frère,
L'aigle à deux têtes du Kremlin,
L'aigle que l'Autriche révère?
Pour ne point être confondu,
Prends un signe, qui te décore.
Mon signe à moi n'est pas perdu,
Ma crête rouge brille encore.

Tu n'es qu'un Romain déguisé,
Moi des ergots jusqu'à la tête
Je suis français, brave, rusé,
Galant, jaloux dans la conquête,
Un peu crâne, un peu babillard,
Mais ces défauts on les adore!—
Pauvre aigle, tu t'y prends trop tard—
Sur les cœurs le coq règne encore.

Usurpateur! sois donc moins fier;
Sans vouloir rabaisser ta gloire,
Chez nous tes succès sont d'hier,
J'ai sur le pas dans l'histoire—
Avec mes fils Hoche et Marceau

Toujours vainqueur—et son Waterloo
Le coq gaulois l'attend encore!

Tu me reproches mon fumier,
Mais ce fumier nourrit la terre,
Mon domaine est hospitalier,
Ton aire est froide et solitaire;
Les hauts monts ont plus d'un écueil—
L'un des tiens, que le monde honore,
Sur un rocher eut son cerceuil,
Sur mon fumier, je chante encore.

Pour toi, le temps ne marche pas,
Ton cri fanfare des batailles
Ne sait mener les peuples las
Qu'à des stériles funérailles;
Moi je vois d'autres temps venir,
Ma voix pacifique et sonore
Dira l'hymne de l'avenir,
Ecoute bien—je chante encore.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

MONDAY, the 13th, was a field day with the meteorologists—they had it all to themselves. Dove's maps of the Lines of Abnormal Temperature of the Globe were exhibited by Col. Sabine; Col. Sykes communicated an Analysis of the Mean Daily Temperatures and Fall of Rain at 127 Stations in the Bengal Presidency. These observations afforded striking illustrations of the influence of hills and other local and physical causes on the fall of rain; owing to which the difference in the quantities of rain collected at two different stations in the same latitude, and not many miles apart, was often very great. At some stations the enormous quantity of 600 inches was observed in a single year. Col. Sykes also read extracts from a letter from Dr. Buist on four simultaneous experiments in the island of Bombay, to determine the fall of rain at different heights below 200 feet. The results of these observations were indecisive; but from the discussion which followed it appeared an established fact, that up to a certain height the quantity of rain increased, attained a maximum, and afterwards decreased. Dr. Buist also dwelt upon the numerous exceptions to the admitted rule, that the annual range of the barometer increased, and the diurnal fluctuations decreased, as we recede from the equator. In reference to the communication of Col. Sykes, Sir David Brewster showed the influence which the times chosen for observation would have upon the results—without regard to this, indeed, the observations might be utterly worthless. There are two hours in the day at which the temperature is a mean of the day; the first occurs in these countries at about 9 o'clock A.M., and the last at about 8 hours 15 minutes P.M.; the critical interval, as it is called, being thus about 11 hours 15 minutes. It was of the greatest importance to ascertain whether this interval were the same in India, where the circumstances were so very different.

Mr. Welsh interested the Section by an account of his two balloon ascents, which took place under the superintendence of the Kew Committee of the British Association, on the 17th and 26th of August. The aeronaut was furnished with a siphon barometer; two wet-bulb and two dry-bulb thermometers; two hygrometers, one of which was Daniell's, and the other Regnault's. With these the atmospheric pressure, the temperature, and the humidity, were measured at various altitudes above the earth's surface. To enable the thermometers to assume speedily the temperature of the surrounding air, their bulbs were made exceedingly small; and to arrest the powerful radiation from surfaces of glass, the instruments were protected by cases of polished silver. During the first ascent about 100 thermometric observations were made, and during the second 160. The relation of temperature and tension of watery vapour is represented graphically by Mr. Welsh, a complete oversight of the entire results being thus obtained. The most remarkable result certainly is a sudden change of tension, which took place in the first ascent at a height of 5000 feet above the earth, and on the 26th at a height of 8000 feet. Up to this point the decrease was gradual, when the tension suddenly fell, and assumed a value which it retained for a considerable height without further decrease, nay, for some distance after the sudden reduction it appeared to increase. In the first ascent the average decrease of temperature was found to be 1 degree for every 305 feet, and in the second ascent, 1 degree for 345 feet. The utmost height attained on the 17th of August was 19,500 feet, and on the 26th, 19,000 feet. The lowest temperature attained in both cases was 8° Fahr. Mr. Welsh congratulated himself on the assistance rendered him by Mr. Nicklin, and on the intelligent co-operation of Mr. Green. Bottles of air were brought down from great heights and placed in the hands of Dr. Miller, of King's College, for analysis.

In reply to a question from Sir David Brewster, Mr. Welsh stated that he had experienced no difficulty of breathing. Mr. Nicklin had experienced

a sense of fullness about the temples, which soon disappeared. One point of considerable interest appears to have escaped the attention of the observers. Air being the medium through which sonorous undulations are transmitted, its rarefaction in the higher atmospheric regions must materially interfere with the production of sound. During the next ascent, it will certainly be worth while to make an experiment with the voice, or perhaps to discharge a gun at the point of maximum elevation.

A paper was read by Dr. Lloyd 'On the Meteorology of Ireland,' deduced from observations made at the coast-guard stations under the direction of the Royal Irish Academy. The isothermal lines for the various seasons are very peculiar in Ireland; for example, the isothermal for spring lies nearly from south-west to north-east, and in autumn it is found to have veered round and taken up a position from south-east to north-west. We were particularly struck with the ingenuity of the explanation given by Dr. Lloyd for this enigmatical phenomenon. Looking at the maps of Dove, the isothermal line is sometimes observed to bend suddenly upward or downward, thus forming a kind of hill or prominence on the general line of direction. Now these bends are not stationary; and one that occurs near Ireland has a motion to the westward. Imagine the bend thus moving: its western slope must first cross the island, and this slope, which is present in spring, has a southeasterly direction; continuing to move, the eastern slope of the curve cuts the island in autumn, and hence the isothermal in this case must have a north-westerly direction. At the inland stations it is observed that the ranges of temperature for the day and year are greater than at the coast. It would lend additional interest to such observations as those so ably conducted by Dr. Lloyd, if the nature of the soil and strata surrounding a station were noted. Ranges of temperature in Ireland will depend almost solely upon these causes; the high specific heat and low conducting power of water preserve the stations on the coast from those sudden fluctuations to which strata of comparatively good conducting power are exposed. The mean temperature of the western coast of Ireland exceeds that of the eastern by about two degrees. The mean elastic force of vapour in Ireland during 1851 was equal to the pressure of 0.314 of an inch of mercury. The influence of local causes in modifying the quantity of rain was strikingly exhibited. Thus, at Cahirciveen, the quantity which falls is nearly three times that which falls at Portarlington. The Mountain of Slieve-bloom rises to the south-west of the latter town, arrests the vapours, and discharges them in rain before they reach it; Cahirciveen, on the contrary, lies on that side of a mountain which exposes it to the discharge of the clouds from the west. The observations of Dr. Lloyd also furnish evidence of the existence of rotatory air-currents; observations made simultaneously at various stations prove that these aerial rotations are not confined to the hurricane, but may be traced in the motions of the gentlest breeze. Dr. J. Taylor read a paper 'On Tropical Hurricanes,' stating the circumstances which give rise to them, the primal cause being the production of a partial vacuum by heat, a consequent low barometric pressure, and a rush of air to establish the equilibrium.

Although Tuesday was the last day of the Section a formidable array of papers stood on the morning's list. The first communication was made by M. Du Bois Reymond, 'On a New Effect produced on Muscles by the Electric Current.' When a current of electricity is transmitted through any portion of a nerve a current is excited, by a kind of induction, throughout the whole extent of the nerve. This peculiar action is described in the abstract of Du Bois Reymond's researches, recently translated into English by Dr. Bence Jones. A similar phenomenon with regard to muscles had long eluded the search of experimenters. It nevertheless exists, but with this difference:—When the exciting current ceases, the current aroused by it in the nerve ceases also; the current in the latter resembles the magnetism of soft iron, which is easily excited, but

becomes null the moment the exciting cause ceases. Now a muscle stands in the same relation to a nerve that steel occupies with reference to soft iron; a current is also aroused in the muscle in the same manner as in the nerve, but a kind of coercive force is possessed by the former which confines the induced current within very narrow limits, and causes it to remain in action for some time after the original current has ceased. A paper from Capt. Johnson followed, 'On the placing of Compasses in Iron Ships.' Captain Strachey showed some corrections that were necessary to be applied to the wet-bulb thermometer. Sir W. R. Hamilton addressed the Section on Biquaternions, in which he advocated an entirely new mathematical system. Prof. Stokes spoke of the optical properties of a recently discovered salt of quinine: could the crystals be obtained large enough, they would form excellent substitutes for tourmalines. He also exhibited a number of sensitive media—a name given to media which possess the property of changing the refrangibility of light, or, to use the language of the theory of undulation, which increase the length of its undulations. The dark rays at the violet end of the spectrum when passed through these media are rendered luminous, and the spectrum itself extended far beyond its ordinary limits. Prof. Smyth exhibited an improved reflecting instrument for use at sea. Mr. R. W. Townshend described an instrument for examining the colours of liquids by transmitted light. Sir David Brewster examined Dove's 'Theory of Lustre.' Prof. Dove, of Berlin, has produced some beautiful effects by the stereoscopic combination of colours. Where a black surface and a white are thus combined, although both may be quite dull, the result is a surface which shines with metallic brilliancy, so bright, indeed, that many who have observed it compare it to the lustre of lead-glance or of tin. Against Dove's explanation of this phenomenon the remarks of Sir David were directed. Part of them, we imagine, would lose their force if the German word *Glanz*, rendered *lustre* by Sir David, could be expressed by its exact English equivalent. In some cases they are synonymous, but in others not so. Sir David objected to the word *lustre* as applied to the shining surface of a varnished painting, but the German word *Glanz*, as applied by Dove, is strictly applicable here. Dr. Royle communicated certain barometric and thermometric observations, made at Saharunpore. Dr. Tyndall described a new thermometer of contact, with certain results obtained by it. Dr. Bryce explained the system of Chinese notation. Papers were read from Sir John Ross, Mr. W. H. Hooper, and J. K. Watts, on the Aurora; and with these the business of the Section ended. The proceedings throughout were conducted in a pleasant and animated manner, and the various papers and discussions were listened to with the greatest attention.

The British Association can appeal with confidence to the volumes of its Reports as furnishing tangible proofs of its great utility. Tangible they are, no doubt; but the influence of such a Society upon science is not to be measured by those visible results. There are unseen and incalculable agencies set to work by the personal contact of man with man. Private research and meditation must ever form the grand instruments of scientific progress; but a contact with his fellow furnishes a purchase for his thoughts which no scientific man can afford to lose. We doubt not that, from the meeting at Belfast, many will return to their homes, with minds invigorated and resolution strengthened, to begin anew that battle of the philosopher—the subjugation of nature to the intellect of man.

SECTION C.—(Geology.)

President.—Lieut.-Col. Portlock, R.E., F.R.S.
Vice-Presidents.—Richard Griffith, F.G.S.; Rev. Professor Sedgwick, F.G.S.; Sir H. T. de la Beche, F.R.S.; James Smith, Esq., F.G.S.
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Section C. was opened on Thursday morning under the Presidency of Colonel Portlock, who was indefatigable in the duties of his office. The results of the week's labours of this Section, for it did not close till half-past three on Wednesday afternoon, were on the whole satisfactory, though not brilliant. Section C. was at one time the most fascinating, and far the most fully and constantly attended, of all the Sections; but it appeared this year to have lost a little of its former prestige. This result was partly due, perhaps, to the absence of some of its most distinguished members, as Sedgwick, Buckland, and Lyell; but it is also owing, in great measure, to a fault in its active members, which is more prominent in this Section, perhaps, than in any other. This fault is diffuseness, and it is apparent alike in the papers and in the discussions. We would earnestly entreat the authors of papers to be read at this Section to study condensation, and to endeavour, instead of bringing forward a multitude of details, to present the pith and marrow only of their subject. This is sometimes difficult to do; but it ought always to be attempted. Let the author have as many details to exhibit in maps and sections as he pleases, and as much as he likes in MS. notes also; but let him only give us the results. If that were done, we should also be enabled to dispense with the subsequent addresses of the President. At present, the author gives the details; then the President endeavours to seize upon and lay before the Section the results, and is sometimes himself led away into a diffuse description of details, so that all persons become too weary of the subject to care to enter upon its discussion. Then, when the discussion really commences, there is still often too much length used. Some of the more eminent members think it necessary to enter into the generalities of the subject, and to give a sort of popular lecture to the audience, apparently to enable them to understand what the paper was about, so that sometimes we fancy that persons who really have something pertinent to say about a point that was mentioned in the paper give it up in despair, and the discussion languishes and dies away.

After this "wiggling to all hands," we will proceed with our account of the doings of the Section. During the earlier days of the meeting the principal papers, as was but fitting, were on various questions of Irish geology. Mr. Griffith appropriately commenced this subject by presenting to the Section the new edition of his Geological Map of Ireland, with the latest improvements and additions, and by giving a general sketch of the geological structure of Ireland. The structure of Ireland is rather peculiar. It consists of a great central plain of limestone, having but little elevation above the sea, since Mr. Griffith stated the highest point of the railway between Dublin and Galway to be only 160 feet above it, surrounded in part by several groups of hills, consisting of older rock thrust up from below. There are five principal outbursts of granite in Ireland; namely, 1st, that of Wexford and Wicklow, piercing Silurian and Cambrian rocks, and altering them near their junction into mica slate and gneiss; the strike of this district is about north-east by north. 2nd, The Mourne Mountains in the south of the county Down, likewise penetrating into Silurian rocks, and altering them into gneiss and mica slate, and having a broad Silurian belt spreading round on the south, west, and north of them into the counties of Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh, and the rest of the county Down. The general strike of this district seems to be north-east by east. 3. The Mountains of Donegal, where the granite protrudes in great force into a large mass of mica slate and gneiss, with much quartz rock and primary limestone, the exact age of these altered rocks not being yet known. They spread from Donegal, through Londonderry, into Tyrone, where

granite again appears from under them in some places. The strike here is north-east. 4. A north-east ridge of granite cutting through mica slate, and running from Mayo across Sligo, through Loughs Con and Cullen. 5. The Galway granite district, running nearly east and west, with much mica slate, gneiss, quartz rock, and primary limestone on the north of it, on which reposes a mass of Silurian rocks very full of fossils. In the south of Ireland no granite is seen; probably, however, this results rather from want of sufficient denudation than from other causes, as we have here some of the loftiest mountains of Ireland, consisting either of Silurian or of Devonian rocks, or of both, sharply bent and contorted, running in parallel ridges nearly due east and west, or at most east by north and west by south. Of these the most prominent are the Dingle promontory, of which Brandon Hill, 3,127 feet high, is the loftiest point; the Killarney promontory, where M'Gillicuddy's Reeks are 3,414 feet high, and the promontory between Kenmare and Bantry bays, where we have Hungry Hill, 2,153 feet high. Inland we have, still striking east and west, the Galtee Mountains, of which the highest is 3,015 feet; the Knockmealdowns, 2,609 feet; and the Comreghs, 2,597 feet. Some prominent hills of lesser height, and composed of Silurian and Old Red Sandstone rocks, likewise protrude in the counties of Clare, Tipperary, and Queen's county, through the carboniferous rocks, having no very definite strike and a quaquaversal dip. Around and between the districts thus indicated spread the horizontal beds of the mountain limestone, forming one great plain, the eminences of which consist, not of lower rocks thrust up from below, but of higher rocks reposing on the mountain limestone. Of these the most important are the coal measures, which occur likewise in five principal districts of Ireland. The largest and most worthless of these is the coal-field stretching from Kerry, through Limerick, into Clare, the rocks consisting mostly of hard dark shale, with a few unimportant beds of culm. The next is the coal-field spreading through the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's County, which contains some good beds of anthracite, formerly and still worked. The third is the Leitrim coal-field, and the fourth and fifth the coal-fields of Dungannon in Tyrone, and Ballycastle in county Antrim. In these are good beds of bituminous coal; but it is to be regretted, that in consequence of the great amount of denudation, the uppermost and most valuable beds are only left at a few small localities, having been worn away and swept off the remainder of the country over which they doubtless once extended. Over the remainder of Ireland there are no rocks newer than the coal-measures, but in Antrim we get some of the more modern rocks which were described on Monday, by Messrs. Bryce and M'Adam of Belfast. These rocks consist of some new red sandstone, and of parts of the lias, greensand, and chalk, overlaid by a great plateau of basalt, associated with which were some tertiary clays and lignites. The new red sandstone forms a considerable district near Belfast, occupying great part of the valley of the Lagan. It consists apparently of the uppermost part of the formation, principally the red marls, which must, near Carrickfergus, be at least 800 feet thick, as Lord Downshire had sunk 750 feet in them, the lower 120 feet of which was in a magnificent bed of rock salt, the bottom of which was not yet reached. Below the marls are certain red and yellow sandstones of considerable thickness, but their base had not yet been ascertained, neither was it made quite clear whether any Permian rocks existed below it.

Professor King read a paper on Monday, on some fossils said to be Permian, got from Cultra, on the south side of Belfast Lough, out of a magnesian limestone there. This limestone Mr. Griffith declared to be lower carboniferous, as it lay by, and, he believed, dipped under, some sandstone (part of his yellow sandstone), which from its fossils was certainly carboniferous. Other members believed this magnesian limestone to be resting

unconformably upon the sandstone. This question is one of importance, especially with reference to the existence of coal, and its probable depth under the new red sandstone of Antrim; because if any Permian rocks can be proved to exist, the probable depth of coal beneath the surface at any locality will be greatly increased. On the upper surface of the red marls, which, beside the salt, contain strings and plates of gypsum, rest patches of lias, dark shale, with some calcareous bands, all containing fossils. The most remarkable circumstance connected with this lias is its extreme thinness. On the lias is some greensand equally thin, neither of them exceeding thirty feet in any case, and sometimes being only a few inches. On the greensand is chalk, with flints, likewise very thin, and over that is the basalt. Many very curious details of the relations of these rocks were given by Mr. Bryce, and also by Mr. M'Adam, but for these we have no space.

Mr. M'Adam also gave a detailed account of the recent geology of the neighbourhood of Belfast, describing the way in which the ground on which the town stands was formed of the silt of the rivers and brooks of the neighbourhood. The general tertiary, pleistocene, or 'drift' geology of Ireland was entered on on all these occasions, but discussed more at large in a paper by Mr. R. Young, read on Friday, 'On the Eskars of the Central Part of Ireland.' The coasts of the south-east and south of Ireland are fringed by a very recent formation, containing some living and some arctic species of shells. This formation consists of marls and sands, sometimes 100 feet thick, and spreading over considerable districts. It is found at intervals along the south coast as far as Ballycotton Bay, in the county of Cork, and along the east coast as far north as Howth at least. The whole of the great plain of the centre of Ireland is covered by limestone gravel, which runs up into the flanks of the southern hills to the height of 600 or 800 feet; at all events piles and hills of this gravel occur indiscriminately, more or less mingled with sand; but Mr. Young discriminated between these irregular heaps and the regularly formed eskars, long lines or ridges of gravel running for many miles across the country like a road or winding railway embankment. In these he said the gravel would always be found sorted, the larger pebbles below. However that may be, he was, we think, right in attributing their origin to the margins of opposing currents in a shallow sea.

Having thus described the general structure of Ireland by the light of the papers read to the Section, we will proceed to notice a point of detail, on which there appeared to be some difference of opinion to settle.

On Saturday a paper was read by Mr. Griffith on 'The Lower Members of the Carboniferous Series of Ireland,' followed by another by Mr. Jukes, on 'The Devonian Rocks of the South of Ireland.' Under these designations the authors appeared both to include certain beds, called also by Mr. Griffith 'yellow sandstone' and 'carboniferous slate,' and the question was whether they belonged most to the Carboniferous or Devonian Systems. Mr. Griffith relied on some sections in the north, on the coasts of Mayo and Sligo, where, under the main mass of the mountain limestone, comes a series of limestones, grey and black shales, and yellow sandstones, very much interstratified and alternating one with the other. The limestones contained many fossils, every one of which were undoubtedly carboniferous. Certain red beds appeared in the lower parts of this section coloured old red sandstone in Mr. Griffith's map, but this he appeared inclined to give up as too hasty a determination. Mr. Griffith then said he identified the yellow sandstones and shales of the South of Ireland, which are likewise underneath the main mass of the mountain limestone, but which contain no limestones, and few fossils except fragments of plants, with these beds of the North of Ireland, which he looked on as the type of his 'yellow sandstone,' and therefore concluded those in the south to be carboniferous as well as those in the north. Mr. Jukes said that, as regarded this ques-

tion, he had met with a difficulty in his office as Local Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, when surveying the counties of Waterford and Cork, which difficulty he could only solve by drawing a boundary line at the base of the true mountain limestone, and considering all above that line as Carboniferous, and all below it Devonian. Working upwards from the base of the undoubted old red sandstone, and calling that Devonian, (which base in the county Waterford was seen to rest for many miles unconformably on the Lower Silurians) he found the red sandstones and shales of which it is composed frequently alternating with yellow sandstones, the alternations occurring sometimes through a vertical thickness of several hundred feet, then, still ascending, the red colours died away and the yellow sandstones preponderated, interstratified with green, grey, and sometimes with red shales up to the very base of the limestone. There was therefore no physical reason or lithological evidence for drawing any boundary between the old red sandstone and the yellow sandstone, nor was it possible to draw one with any kind of precision. As to the fossils, there were a few fossils in some thin black shales and limestones, just below the base of the thick limestone, which were undoubtedly carboniferous; but below that there were, for the most part, only a few fragments of plants, found principally in the yellow sandstone beds, which gradually died away as we descended into the undoubted old red. There was, however, a very remarkable lithological change which took place in these beds as we proceeded from Kilkenny and North Waterford into the south of the county of Cork, which was, that the whole section swelled out from about 1000 feet to upwards of 7000, the principal thickening taking place in the upper part; so that near Kinsale the yellow sandstone, being split up into a vast series of alternations of grey shale and grit, all more or less traversed by slaty cleavage, puts on quite a different aspect from what it had to the north-east. Mr. Jukes said that the survey of this district was still unfinished, the fossils collected yet unexamined, but he stated the difficulty he had experienced from mere physical evidence in separating these yellow sandstones and carboniferous slates from the old red sandstone, and that he proposed, therefore, for the present, to call them Upper, and the red beds Lower Devonian. In the discussion which took place it seemed to be generally doubted whether the beds described by Mr. Griffith in the north, and Mr. Jukes in the south, were geologically the same thing. Another part of Mr. Jukes's paper was devoted to mentioning the precise geographical and geological locality of some remarkable fossils discovered by the Survey during the preceding year. He stated they occurred in some alternations of red and green argillaceous sandstone at Kiltorkan Hill, near Knocktopher, county Kilkenny, about 500 feet below the base of the mountain limestone, and the same distance above the base of the old red sandstone, just where we would be inclined at that locality to draw the boundary between Upper and Lower Devonian. These fossils were then described by Professor E. Forbes, who said they consisted of some wonderfully fine ferns of at least two species; of some large shells which he believed were of the existing genus *Anodon* (our common freshwater mussel) though of course of different species; some species of *Lepidodendron*, and some curious cones; fish remains of Devonian types, and fragments of a crustacean called *Pterygotus*. The ferns belonged, he believed, to the genus *Cyclopteris*, and were entirely new species. Some of the fronds were upwards of two feet in length, and beautifully perfect. The *Anodon* he proposed to call *Anodon Jukesii*. The whole of the fossils he believed to be new, and to be of the greatest interest, as giving us the first clear evidence of the nature of the flora of the Devonian period, and as an indication of freshwater beds existing in that formation. On this point, Mr. Jukes mentioned that the comparatively thin and sandy character of the formation in Kilkenny, and its greater thickness and muddiness in the south-west of Cork, showed as if the one were

formed near the shore and the other further out in the deep sea.

The only other paper on Irish geology exclusively, was one 'On a few Genera of Irish Silurian Fossils,' by Mr. Salter, of the Government Geological Survey, giving an account of some new Trilobites and Mollusca from several localities in Ireland. Crustacea:—The genus *Stygina* is proposed for a small group of Lower Silurian Trilobites, allied to *Asaphus*, but distinguished by having nine thorax segments without grooves. Habit intermediate between *Asaphus* and *Illenus*. No rostral shield. Species 1. *Stygina latifrons* (Asaph. latifrons, Portlock), Tyrone; 2. *S. (?) Murchisonæ* (Ogygia Murchisonæ, Murchison). *Cyphoniscus*, a new genus of Lower Silurian Trilobites, related to *Triarthrus* of Green, distinguished from it by an inflated glabella without any lobes, and few body segments—seven only in the thorax, one in the tail. These two genera have the character (remarkable in the Olenoid group) of the facial suture ending on the external margin. Species 1. *Cyphoniscus socialis*, Salter, ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length.) Locality, Kildare County. Of the genus *Acidaspis*, Murchison, a new species, with two neck spines, is described, *A. Jamesii*, Salter, Mem. Geol. Surv. Dec. 7. Locality, Lower Silurian, Waterford. *Eglina*, Barrande—a remarkable Lower Silurian genus, with enormously developed eyes, occupying all the cheeks, and in the present species meeting in front. *Eglina mirabilis*, new species, Portrane, County Dublin. *Remopleurides*, Portlock. From careful examination of the three allied species, *R. dorso-spinifer*, *R. Colbii*, and *R. latero-spinifer*, Portlock, it is ascertained that there are no specific differences except those of narrow and broad form, and lateral and dorsal appendages. *R. dorso-spinifer*, the narrowest form with a dorsal spine on the eighth segment, is believed, from analogy with *Sphaeroma*, to be the male; *R. Colbii* may be an immature female; and *R. latero-spinifer*, the broadest form, with (ovigerous?) expansions of the seventh segment, the full-grown female. *Cyphaspis megalops*, M'Coy, species, also has a dorsal spine on the sixth segment, Mem. Geol. Surv. Decade 7. Mollusca:—A new species of *Littites*, of the section *Trocholites*, Conrad, is described, *L. hibernicus*, Salter, from the Lower Silurian limestone of County Kildare. The genus *Pterotheca* is proposed for a fine fossil Pteropod, distinguished from *Cleodora*, &c., by very wide wing-like expansions on each side. Species 1, *P. transversa* (Atrypa transversa, Portl. Geol. Rep. p. 455), Tyrone, Lower Silurian.

Of the other papers the two most important were read on Friday, 'On the Fossils of the Lower Silurian Rocks of Scotland,' by Mr. Harkness; and 'On the Structure of the South Silurian Mountains of Scotland,' by Professor Nicol. The first of these gave a description of the geology of Dumfriesshire; the second described the whole of that belt of Silurian rocks which stretch across from the Lamermuir Hills, in a west-south west direction through the south of Scotland to Dumfries, and appear likewise to strike into Ireland in the County Down. The fossils described consisted entirely of graptolites, of which there were several species. Both authors coincided in their views, and agreed as to the vast thickness to be assigned to the rocks, exceeding 30,000 feet after making every possible allowance. Professor Nicol described the structure of the whole district in a succinct and condensed way, bringing the section into considerable harmony with that of North Wales described by Messrs. Jukes and Selwyn in North Wales. He described the entire absence of slaty cleavage, and compared the strike of some parts of the district with that of some of the systems of M. E. de Beaumont. He also discussed the nature of the anticlinal and synclinal curves, with reference to some proposed theories in physical geology, but did not arrive at any decided result.

An interesting paper was read on Monday, by Sir D. Brewster, on the Diamond, in which he detailed some experiments he had made on the Koh-i-Noor and other diamonds in London. The result of these experiments and observations was Sir David's belief that a diamond was nothing else

than a fossil gum. Many diamonds had cavities exhibiting films or rings of polarized light, such as could only have been produced by the expansive force of a gas or a fluid acting in the cavity when the diamond was in a soft state. He also had observed an amorphous diamond on the outside of another diamond answering to the cavity within-side it, and had no doubt the one had emerged from the other in a fluid state and crystallized instantaneously. He likewise described a black diamond—black, not in its substance, but from the number of cavities it contained, and mentioned a similar one cut by a Dutchman into two, one of the cavities containing a considerable portion of what Tavernier calls black vegetable mud.

'On the lowest Fossiliferous Beds of North Wales,' by J. W. Salter, of the Government School of Mines. M. de Barrande having of late years shown that there was a peculiar group of fossils at the base of the Silurian System, designated by him Group C, consisting in Bohemia of species of *Conocephalus*, *Agnostus*, *Paradoxides*, and other peculiar genera of Trilobites; and a similar fauna having been shown to occupy the same base line in Sweden, by M. Angelin, the object of the present communication is to exhibit the characteristic fossils of the lowest British strata, and to show that while they contain an assemblage very analogous to that of Sweden and Bohemia, they differ by the introduction of some other forms which appear to link them with the succeeding strata. The beds in question are the 'Lingula flags' of Professor Sedgwick, and are largely developed at Ffestiniog, Dolgelly, and Snowdon; they are also found in the high range of hills over the slate quarries at Bangor, and they appear under another form in Shropshire. They lie at the base of the great igneous series, 15,000 feet thick, of which Cader Idris and Arenigfawr form part; occur still higher, interstratified with the porphyries, and probably terminate before the close of this series, as the upper porphyries are interstratified by beds containing fossils characteristic of the true 'Llandeilo flags,' or in M. de Barrande's language, the 'Etage D.' In the lower part or true 'Lingula flags,' Dolgelly, Tremadoc, &c., the following fossils occur:—*Olenus micrurus*, Salter, of frequent occurrence. *Hymenocaris vermicarda*, new genus, allied to the recent *Nebalia*. *Lingula Davisii*, M'Coy, the characteristic fossil of the beds. *Cruziana semiplicata*, new species, a genus of Silurian fucoids. *Chondrites* species, very nearly allied to, perhaps identical with, the fucoids of the 'Skiddaw slate.' The genus *Olenus* characterizes beds of this age in Sweden. *Lingula*, too, is found in the very oldest deposits of Silurian age in Europe and America. *Cruziana* is frequent in the Llandeilo flags of Spain, Normandy, North and South America; and *Hymenocaris* is a form such as has not yet occurred lower than the Upper Silurian. Higher up, the porphyries are still intercalated by beds containing *Lingula Davisii*; but near the top, &c., the following list occurs:—*Asaphus Selwyni*, a new species. *Calymene parvifrons*, Salter. *Lingula Davisii*? the species is probable, but not certain. Graptolites occur a little further south. The same beds, probably, in South Carnarvonshire contain, with the above-mentioned *Asaphus* and Graptolites, *Graptolites Murchisonæ*, Murch., a Llandeilo flag species. *Lingula attenuata*? Sow., also from Llandeilo flags. The genera *Asaphus* and *Calymene* are characteristic of the 'Llandeilo flags.' It is more than probable, therefore, that to establish a strict conformity with the continental types, the horizon should be drawn in the middle of the 'Igneous Series,' the lower part of which would belong to 'Etage C,' the upper to 'Etage D.' But it is thought by the author premature to make this separation, on account of the apparent mingling of types in the lowest fauna rather characteristic of a succeeding era. As tending also to throw light on the possible occurrence of this lowest fauna in North America, a species of *Conocephalus* is adverted to as having been brought from Georgia, and a *Paradoxides* (?) of small size from the calciferous sand-rock at the base of the Lower Silurian of Canada. A large *Paradoxides*

has been found in North Wales, but it is uncertain whether in the 'Lingula flags' or higher in the series. This point is of great importance, since the genus is one of the most characteristic of the oldest stratum both in Bohemia and Sweden; and if it be found to occur in Britain (as *Agnostus* does) in the Llandeilo flags, it will throw great doubt on the primordial character of the fossil group in question.

Our space obliges us to pass lightly over the other papers read, mentioning only the titles of some of the most prominent:—

Professor M'Coy 'On some Fishes from the Old Red Sandstone.'

Mr. Bryce 'On the Dispersion of Granite Boulders in Argyshire.'

Professor Nicol 'On the Occurrence of Glacier Moraines in Arran.'

Mr. Smith, of Jordanhill, 'On the Conditions under which Boulders occur in Scotland,' and Exhibition of a Fossil Fish from Carlisle, Lanarkshire.

Major Vicary, of Wexford, 'On the Geology of part of the Himalaya Mountains.'

Dr. Stanger 'On certain Furrows and Smoothings on the Surface of Granite caused by Drift Sand at the Cape of Good Hope.'

Mr. Hennessey 'On some Points in Geological Theory, and on some Points connected with Slags,' from a Memoir by Prof. Leonhard of Heidelberg, apparently going over much the same ground long ago occupied by Dr. Percy.

'On the Geology of Spain,' by M. de Verneuil, a very interesting and important paper, which ought to have been brought out at an earlier period of the meeting.

'On the Changes resulting from the Cooling of Granite,' by M. Delesse, Secretary of the Geological Society of Paris, likewise an interesting paper, although its matter was not altogether new.

The excursion to the Giant's Causeway, at the close of the meeting, formed an appropriate termination to the labours of Section C. Great interest attaches to the structure of the north-east coast of Ireland, and it was most ably demonstrated to a numerous and intelligent audience by the local geologists who do so much honour to Belfast.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

A VERY interesting publication is about to be made, by order and at the expense of the French government—namely, a complete collection of the popular poetry of the country, such as songs in the different provincial dialects, on love, war, and religion, ballads, historical legends, satires,—in a word, all the old poetry which has been handed down by tradition from former times, together with all of a modern character which has engraved itself in the minds of the people. In our own country, Bishop Percy, Scott, and others, have done something in this way; but a government, with its vast resources and inexhaustible treasury, can necessarily do a vast deal more than any private individuals. Nevertheless our collectors have enjoyed an advantage which the French will not possess—that of having the pieces they have assembled written in a language which every one can understand; whereas most of those in France are in Provençal, Flemish, or Bas-Breton, which are distinct languages, and as incomprehensible to the majority of Frenchmen as Otaheitian, whilst a vast portion of the remainder are in barbarous provincial *patois* which it is often very difficult to make out. If the French government causes the different pieces to be translated, it will deprive them of all their quaint beauty; if it does not, they will not be generally understood; and if it gives both originals and translations, the collection will run to such an immense length that the public will not be able to purchase it. All this, however, does not deprive the government of the merit of ordering what, view it as it will, cannot fail to be a curious and important addition to the national literature.

Last week, at Ramsgate, died Augustus Welby Pugin, whose name will be ever associated with

the history of architecture in this country. He had recently recovered from the mental disease by which he was for a time laid aside, and seemed to be gaining health at the seaside. A friendly writer in the 'Morning Chronicle' says, that "to the last he combined a love of the sea as only second to his love of a Gothic church, and at one time he owned, and sometimes commanded, a merchant smack trading with Holland. The proximity of the sea was one great inducement which led him to fix his abode at Ramsgate; and among the appendages of his mediæval dwelling was a large cutter, with which he was always prepared with his merry men to push off to the rescue of any vessel in distress upon the Goodwin Sands. His short figure, dark complexion, and habitual attire had always more about them to remind a stranger of the sailor than to give any clue to the person before him being a great Christian artist." Mr. Pugin's architectural treatises are full of valuable artistic studies, and he has built many churches and chapels which will be memorials of his genius and taste. The Cathedral of St. George, Southwark, the Church of St. Barnabas at Nottingham, the Cistercian Abbey of St. Bernard in Leicestershire, the Cathedral Churches of Killarney and Enniscorthy, and Alton Castle, are amongst the best known of his works. Of the revival of mediæval taste in building and decoration he has been the chief promoter, and 'The Mediæval Court' in the Crystal Palace of 1851 was associated in the mind of every visitor with the name of Pugin. He was buried in his church of St. Augustine on Tuesday last, when his remains were followed to the grave by Sir Charles Barry, R.A., Mr. Herbert, R.A., and other professional friends.

We are happy to learn that the appeal for a fund in behalf of the widow and family of the late Mr. J. W. Allen, the landscape painter, has been generously responded to by the lovers of art and by the benevolent. To the private subscriptions, the managers of the City of London School have added fifty guineas, and the masters thirty guineas. Has the Royal Academy no money disposable for a case like the present? Would it not be well to have a separate committee of the Academy, to attend to such matters as the encouragement of deserving artists struggling to rise to distinction, to aid them to obtain support, and to give relief to those who had been dependent on their inadequately rewarded efforts? On the Continent such functions are not regarded as alien from the objects of an Academy of Art.

Among deaths lately recorded in Scottish obituaries, we observe that of Mr. James Hope, of Feutonbarns, East Lothian, a fine specimen of the yeomen farmers of the north, and well known to the agriculturists on both sides of the Tweed. In 1836 he was one of the witnesses selected from Scotland to give evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on agricultural distress. Mr. Hope has written various papers of value on the subjects with which he was conversant. To the 'New Statistical Account of Scotland' he contributes an article in which many points of historical as well as agricultural interest occur. He describes the great changes in that part of the country within his own recollection. He lived to see railroads passing through fields, the produce of which is conveyed to the markets in a few hours, whereas formerly it was sent on horseback or by sea in as many days. He remembered also when even the old roads were in wretched condition, without any metal, and each summer ploughed up to reduce the irregularities of the preceding winter. Mr. Hope, like all the chief tenant farmers of Scotland, where industry is protected by a good system of leases, was a warm supporter of the financial policy of Sir Robert Peel, considering it to be as beneficial to the progress of agriculture as it was directly advantageous to other interests.

During the repairs of the roads in the Val-aux-Vaches, says the 'Nouveliste Cauchois,' the workmen discovered several traces of Roman sepulture. Several cinerary urns were brought to light, but most of them were broken by the pickaxes and spades. The Abbé Cochet, an antiquary well

known for researches of this description, subsequently obtained leave to make a systematic exploration of the spot. The result was the discovery of fifteen urns, but most of them were broken in pieces. Further excavations showed that the cemetery, according to the Roman custom, extended along the margin of the highway. The urns were, with one exception, of the simplest character, black and white, and appear to have been used in the obsequies of a people of limited means and simple habits. In some instances the ashes seem to have been deposited in simple coffers of wood, of which some traces, together with the nails that fastened them, remained. The Abbé has also explored another Roman cemetery in the neighbourhood of Dieppe, where he has been so fortunate as to discover sixty interments, some of them yielding objects of interest and novelty to the antiquary. Among the vases, which were for the most part discovered entire, was a cup of the fine red ware termed 'Samian,' and a drinking cup of white glass, two ampullæ of green glass, an engraved fibula in bronze, a plated mirror, an implement for the manufacture of which the Gauls, according to Pliny, were celebrated, and lastly, a lamina of slate, polished on one side, and having a receptacle for some bituminous matter, traces of which remained, and which appeared to have been used for covering the surface of the slate. This object is conjectured to have been a Roman tablet. Some are profane enough to conjecture that it is in reality the whetstone of a travelling barber, and that the mirror was also a portion of the battery of an *tonseur ambulant*. The whole, however, are to be submitted to the inspection of competent judges. These relics appear to belong to the third century, and to mark the customs of a people who had adopted Roman usages, if they are not in fact the remains of Roman colonists. The same obscurity exists in England, where similar interments have been discovered, leaving the antiquary in doubt as to whether he shall assign them to the Romanised Britons, or to the Romans themselves.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery book, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' continues to have immense sale in this country as well as in America. In London, besides the best edition, in which the author has an interest, there are numerous reprints, of all shapes and prices, down to broad sheets of six penny numbers. More copies have been sold at the railway stations than of any work ever put upon the stalls. Several new editions have during the two past weeks been issued. To the public testimonies already given of the excellence of the work has been added a letter of Lord Carlisle, in which he says, "Its genius, its pathos, its humour, must sufficiently commend themselves to its nearly unparalleled number of readers. I feel that I have seen and known enough to convince my own mind equally of its general fairness, fidelity, and truth." A striking proof of the popularity of the work is the number of satellite publications already in circulation. There is a reply, pro-slavery, or at least anti-abolitionist, entitled, 'Life at the South, or Uncle Tom's Cabin as it is,' by W. L. G. Smith. Another is entitled 'Aunt Phillis's Cabin, or Southern Life as it is,' by Mrs. Mary H. Eastman, more moderate in its pro-slavery spirit; and a third, 'Life in the South,' by C. H. Wiley, a reprint of a tale by T. B. Peterson, which originally appeared under the title of Sartorius, in 'Sartain's Magazine.' The discussions and criticisms in the American periodicals are endless; and whether the immediate influence of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's book be favourable or adverse to the anti-slavery cause, good cannot but come from the general notice now directed to the real condition of the slaves in "the land of liberty."

The 'Manchester Guardian' reports the number of persons who visited the new Free Library on three days last week. On Wednesday there were 1,969, on Thursday 2,248, Friday 2,073, making, with the number of three previous days, a total of 17,796 during the week. The number of volumes taken from the shelves for reference was, Wednesday, 390 by 333 readers; Thursday, 420 by 362 readers; Friday, 350 by 350 readers. The total

of volumes taken down during the week was 1,317; the total issue of books given out during the week was 979 volumes.

The latest number of the 'Singapore Free Press' reports that Madame Pfeiffer was at Sambas, and was about to proceed to Pontianak *en route* to Batavia. She had visited the wild and independent Dyak tribes on the banks of the Lufar and Batang Lufar rivers, and on the Sekaniet mountains. The river Batang Lufar took her into the small lakes of Bunot and Taomen, from which she reached the magnificent stream, the Kapuas. After visiting Singtang, Sangan, and other places, she reached Pontianak. By the interference of the Dutch authorities at Pontianak she visited the Diamond mines of Landak, and several of the most interesting Dyak tribes. Everywhere the enterprising traveller was well received, and she describes herself as being conveyed and escorted in "almost triumphal style."

The discussion about keeping railway time in the provinces, which in the west of England was carried on last year with much animation, has approached a definite settlement by a recent debate and division in the Town Council of Bristol, who have resolved, by a majority of twenty-seven to three, to have Greenwich time kept by all the clocks under their municipal control. It was stated that the municipal bodies of Plymouth, Devonport, and Exeter, would follow the decision of the Bristol Council. The cathedral clock of Exeter will, however, keep to its old movements. As the keeping of Greenwich time will probably be soon general all over the country, it may be well that at least the cathedral clocks should retain with venerable consistency the true local time.

We are sorry to observe that no official contradiction has yet appeared from the trustees of the British Museum regarding the alleged refusal to allow casts of some of the articles in the collection to be taken for the gallery of the Louvre, on the application of the French Government. This lack of liberality and of courtesy is only another proof of the incompetency of the present managers of our great national institution to discharge their functions in a manner fitted to advance the interests of learning and science, or to sustain the honour of the country.

We are glad to find that the City corporation has at length come to be convinced of the necessity of rebuilding Blackfriars bridge. The old structure refuses to be patched and mended any longer. A new bridge is also contemplated between Blackfriars and Southwark bridges, opposite to Old Change. This we think unnecessary. The purchase of Southwark bridge for the free use of the public is far more to be desired. We hope that contemporary with these improvements Westminster bridge also will be rebuilt.

The Brussels papers announce that Mr. Cochran, the "President of the National Philanthropic Association," &c., is there attending the Health Congress, which is at present sitting in that city. Mr. Cochran has submitted to the burgomaster his plans for street-cleansing, and an efficient staff of men has been put at his disposal for practical demonstration of his system. Our countryman deserves credit for his sanitary zeal, and is much better employed in sweeping the streets of Brussels than in obstructing parochial schemes of aiding the emigration of able-bodied paupers.

The latest letters from Italy record the continuance of the eruption of Mount Etna. Immense destruction of property had been occasioned to the vineyards, and scattered hamlets and several villages are threatened, especially Zaffarana, within a short distance of which the chief lava stream was approaching.

The Académie des Beaux Arts, of the French Institute, has awarded, at its sitting of Sept. 4, the first great prize of sculpture to M. Alfred Adolphe Ernest Lepère, of Paris, pupil of MM. Ramey, Dumont, and Toussant, and the second prize to M. Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux, of Valenciennes, pupil of MM. Rude and Duret.

The Parisians are going to turn the experience of their famous Artesian well at Grenelle to exten-

sive public use. A company is being formed with the plan of sinking forty-eight wells, one in each of the forty-eight arrondissements of Paris, each 1000 metres deep, to supply with hot water public baths and washhouses, as well as private establishments subscribing, and to warm houses by circulation of hot water in pipes. In the better districts the speculation might pay, but the idea of sinking so many wells all over the city is chimerical.

MUSIC.

THE arrangements projected towards the close of last season for the future administration of HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE have been now made public. An association has been organized for conducting the financial affairs of the house, having at its head some of the leading supporters of operatic art in London. The Marquis of Clanricarde is president of the committee, in which are the names of the Earl of Harrington, Major-General Cavendish, Sir John Bayley, and Mr. Barry Baldwin. The committee will undertake the whole responsibility of the receipts and expenditure, a salaried manager being appointed under its control. The present lease has been purchased for a sum represented by 20,000 shares of the new company, each share being 5*l*. The number of shares is to be 40,000, representing a total capital of 200,000*l*. Besides the lease, 25,000*l*. will be invested in the purchase of the properties, leaving 75,000*l*. as an available surplus capital for commencing operations. The Duke of Leinster, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Mr. Frederick Mildred, and Mr. Benjamin Oliveira, M.P., are the trustees of the fund. Our only fear as to the success of the new administration is, that the present system of engaging artists will be left with the manager, who will be exposed to the extortionate competition of the stars of the opera.

THE HEREFORD MUSICAL FESTIVAL has neither in its events nor its success been such as to call for more than brief passing notice. It was the 129th festival of the three choirs of Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester. The conductor, Mr. Townshend Smith, did all in his power to render the meeting a good one; but the want of sufficient training in the choirs, and the consequent absence of precision in the performances, were too apparent. The principal vocalists were some of those whose distinguished appearances at the Birmingham festival we have lately recorded, as Madame Clara Novello, Miss Williams, and Mr. Sims Reeves. To these, Mrs. Endersohn, Mr. Phillips, and others, were welcome additions. The festival commenced as usual with divine service in the Cathedral on Tuesday. A fine specimen of cathedral service was then witnessed. The intoning of the liturgy, the chants, responses, and choruses, had a magnificent effect in a building so well adapted for the solemn impressions of devotional music. Handel's 'Dettingen Te Deum,' Mendelssohn's '95th Psalm,' chants by Tallis, a chorus by Dr. Croft, and other well-known pieces, were introduced. A new anthem by Mr. Townshend Smith was also performed. On Wednesday, Haydn's 'Creation,' Spohr's cantata, 'God Thou art Great,' and some of Beethoven's finest sacred pieces, were given. On Thursday, previous to the performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio of Paul, for the first time introduced at Hereford, the orchestra played the 'Dead March in Saul,' in consequence of the intelligence received the day before of the death of the Duke of Wellington. On Friday, 'The Messiah' was the oratorio. The evening concerts in the Shire Hall were conducted with considerable spirit, the music of Mozart, Weber, Beethoven, Rossini, and Mendelssohn having rightful prominence, and the many glees and madrigals, which were very effectively given, formed a marked feature of the festival. The financial success of the meeting was not great, partly attributable to the weather, and more to the comparative inconvenience of Hereford not yet having railway connexion with other English towns. At the next festival, in 1855, Hereford will be reached by three lines of rail, when a larger gathering may be expected, and probably a better-prepared musical entertainment.

THE NORWICH FESTIVAL has been altogether a more brilliant and successful affair, the leading points of which we will notice next week.

The fate of the Italian Theatre at Paris is just now exciting a good deal of interest in that capital. Some half-dozen gentlemen, backed by musicians or monied men, are anxious to get the management of it; but Mr. Lumley has neither given up the privilege, nor been deprived of it by the Government; and it is probable that it will be under his auspices that the theatre will be again opened. Doubts, however, are expressed in the musical circles that he will be able to form a *troupe*, and to procure novelties which would enable him to make the house as fashionably popular as it was.

Mdlle. Fanny Cerito has been engaged for two years at the Grand Opera; she is to *débuter* in a new ballet. Plunkett has left that theatre.

M. Berlioz is about to publish a work called 'Soirées de l'Orchestre,' in which, under the pretext of relating what takes place amongst musicians in the orchestra, he will communicate musical anecdotes, make musical criticisms, and tell musical stories. Berlioz, it is known, is as able with the pen as with the *baton* of the conductor, and his work will consequently be spirited and amusing.

A society has been formed at Paris for performing the symphonies of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Spohr, and others; together with selections from their overtures, and from those of Mehul, Cherubini, Weber, and Hummel.

A Mdlle. Cambier made her *début* in the *Huguenots* a few nights ago at the Theatre Royal, Brussels. She was very nervous, and though giving proofs of considerable talent, was rather unfavourably received by a portion of the audience. This evidently terrified her, and she could scarcely proceed. By a great effort, however, she continued, but her agitation increased with every act; and in the last she was seized with a violent nervous attack, and had to be carried off the stage. The Brussels journals say that it was curious, and yet painful, to see the poor young woman strive for so long a time to master her dismay, and at last sink under it.

Mdlle. Wagner has resumed her engagement at the Grand Opera at Berlin. Her first appearance was in *I Capuletti ed i Montecchi*. The King and Queen were present.

Mdlle. Sophie Cruvelli has accepted an engagement at the Imperial Theatre at Vienna for the season commencing at the latter end of March.

The 'Snaelpost' of Malmoe says that Jenny Lind has given the enormous sum of 400,000 riksdollars for the establishment of girls' schools in Sweden.

Roger, the French tenor, after finishing his engagement at Berlin, has returned to Paris. His salary at Berlin was 8000 thalers.

Advices from Hamburg mention a new *prima donna*, Mdlle. Ziegeler, who is making a great sensation in that city, where a very short time ago she was known as a milk-maid.

John Strauss, the Viennese composer, has an engagement at Paris.

THE DRAMA.

THE winter dramatic season may be said to have commenced on Saturday last with the re-opening, elegantly beautified, of the PRINCESS'S THEATRE. The manager's taste for the supernatural having suffered no improvement during the recess, the Corsican horrors were zealously revived, precedence being given, however, to the production of a new 'petite comedy' by Mr. Boucicault. It is entitled *The Prima Donna*, and met with the welcome reception that expressive dialogue, careful acting, and tasteful mounting usually command. The cross-love-plot of the piece, though sufficiently intelligible so far as the ladies are concerned, is not very consistently developed, but it serves to bring about situations of interest, though characterised by a somewhat unnatural mingling of the ludicrous and the serious. The most prominent, and at the same time genuine, female character is one *Mary*,

acted by Miss Robertson with sprightly delicacy and finish, while a new *débutante*, Miss Heath, showed considerable aptness and pathos in the companion part of *Stella*. If there be anything to criticise in this lady's performance, it is a tendency to throw her arms about somewhat too vigorously. She acts, nevertheless, with ease and care, and shows a nice appreciation of the difficult emotions that are elicited by a loveable officer on the one hand, and a banker of very impossible, not to say absurd, calibre on the other. This latter character, *Rouble*, seems indeed to have been an after-thought, for the sake of introducing another new member of the company, Mr. Walter Lacy. He appears and disappears, not without some little derangement of the plot, always exciting an interest by his elaborate and carefully studied play, and never failing to command attention by his measured and pointed enunciation of the dialogue, yet certainly marring the very pungent sentiment of the ladies. Notwithstanding the applause with which Mr. Lacy's impersonation of the banker was greeted, and deservedly so, the part is one of very equivocal composition. Mr. Addison's father-physician is well drawn and acted, and Mr. Cathcart performed with care the very trying part of a doubly beloved lover; he wants, however, the *plastique* adequate to embody a prima donna's idea of a cavalier and an officer. The piece is most elegantly put upon the stage, and the whole arrangements of the theatre are a model of propriety and neatness.

The popularity of Mrs. Stowe's novel has revived the energies of the paste and scissors order of British dramatists. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is treasure-trove in these dull days, and we may expect for the next three months to see our negro friends served upon every stage in the metropolis, in every imaginable shape. The *STANDARD*, in the distant East, has for the last fortnight been moving the sympathies of its nautical votaries by the sufferings of *George Harris*, and in the classical domain of the *VICTORIA* the most exciting appeals have during the present week stimulated the consumption of nuts and ginger-beer, which usually accompanies the scenic sorrows of humble virtue and the vociferous villany peculiar to the transpontine drama. The manager of the *OLYMPIC* has availed himself of the prevailing mania to bring out a neat little piece, in two acts, in which some of the most telling features of the book have been strung together with sufficient skill for the purposes of a transient popularity. The adapter has wisely, as it seems to us, not attempted to bring upon the stage the *Uncle Tom* of the book, but converted him into the conventional stage negro, whose excessive love of good eating, and admiration of the personal beauty of his *Chloe* and his piccaninnies, are sure to secure the laughter of the audience, while his strong affections conciliate their complacent sympathies. The piece is well put upon the stage, and well acted, Mr. W. Farren making an excellent *George Harris*, and Mr. Hoskins hitting off the slave-owner *Haley* with a quiet naturalness, which shows that he has studied from the life the class of which *Haley* is a type. The *Topsy* of Mrs. Phillips, in which that lady's propensity to mistake vulgarity for humour is too strongly apparent, should either be put into other hands or cut out altogether. It is the only drawback upon a piece which contains the elements of popularity, and is likely to obtain it. At this theatre a Miss Gordon, who is new to the metropolitan stage, has appeared as *Apollo* in the pleasant old burletta of *Midas*. Her voice is fresh and full of flexibility, and with more skill in its management might be turned to excellent account. Miss Gordon's acting is somewhat disfigured by a *brusquerie* of manner, to which the public have been lenient in the case of Miss Woolgar, but which may not be so readily overlooked in another actress.

The papers of this week record the death, at Plymouth, of Mrs. W. C. Macready.

The only novelty at Paris worthy of mention since our last is a ponderous sort of melodrama, with a vast number of *tableaux*, called, *Paris qui*

pleure, et Paris qui rit. It consists, as will be supposed from the title, of a number of the sad and gay scenes which are to be daily witnessed in the "capital of civilization." It is not concocted with any great dramatic skill, nor written with much literary merit; but it will probably have a run, as the Parisians have a marked liking for seeing on the stage what passes before their noses in the streets. It is at the *Gaité* the thing is played.

Madame Désmousseaux, one of the last remnants of the old classical school of French actors, performed a few nights ago, for a benefit at the Français, in Molière's *Tartuffe*. Her re-appearance did not create the sensation which might have been expected from her quondam celebrity.

French theatres will be opened next month in London, the Hague, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Madrid, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, and Odessa.

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Burton-upon-Trent, August 25, 1852.

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MESSRS. ALLSOPP and SONS have great satisfaction in being enabled to publish the following extract of a Letter just received, dated Munich, 12th September, 1852, from BARON LIEBIG to Mr HENRY ALLSOPP, Brewery, Burton-on-Trent.

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"I emphatically declare that I had not the slightest knowledge of these anonymous articles, the contents of which I entirely disapprove of; and that in every respect I adhere to the statement made in my letter to you, which certainly you were, and are at perfect liberty to publish."

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"The first number of a '*Cyclopædia Bibliographica*,' projected by Mr. Darling, is before us. It is intended to be a catalogue *raisonnée* of authors chiefly, though not exclusively, on theological and historical subjects. The author's name, when known, is followed by a short notice of him, and a catalogue of all his known works, the best editions, and the inferior ones being discriminated. Well done, such a work will be invaluable, and the first number appears to be elaborately and accurately got up. We wish it all success."—*Guardian*, Aug. 18, 1852.

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